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Scientists Prepare for Joint Monitoring Experiment

LD1208194688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Preparations for conducting a joint Soviet-U.S. experiment on monitoring [kontrol] nuclear weapons tests are continuing at one of Tajikistan's mountain seismic stations.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent M. Nikulin] The mountain valley of Surkhob River: A small strip stretches along the mighty foothills of the Karategin range and the Petr Pervyy range. This region is one of the most seismically active. It is precisely for this reason that for almost 40 years a seismological expedition from the Shmidt Terrestrial Physics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences has been operating here. The instruments installed in the expedition's 16 seismic stations and 3 observatories register up to 3,000 earthquakes per annum. Large-scale research work on studying the nature of earthquakes and forecasting them is being carried out here.

Today Soviet scientists are working along with their U.S. colleagues at the expedition's seismic stations, some of which are more than 2,000 meters above sea level.

[Expedition Director I.L. Nersekov] We are conducting joint Soviet-U.S. work to develop methods of detecting weak signals emitted by nuclear explosions. Work with the Americans is now taking place here, in one of the five centers which will be operating in the Soviet Union—including Kislovodsk, Obninsk, Sverdlovsk, and Irkutsk—to install a (?seismic) data station which will register low-capacity nuclear explosions. We are the first station to begin work. The remaining stations will be started up this month. The main efforts are now aimed at starting up the apparatus which is intended to detect explosions—U.S. explosions in August, and ours in September.

[Nikulin] Our explosions?

[Nersekov] This will be a calibrating explosion which is being carried out jointly on U.S. territory by Soviet and U.S. specialists and on our territory by Soviet and also U.S. specialists.

[Nikulin] And all data obtained will be...

[Nersekov, interrupting] ...joint and will be accessible to all countries interested in this matter. We believe that working for peace, together with U.S. specialists, is one of the most important tasks declared by our government at all levels, international and domestic. [end recording]

Soviet Official Views Test

LD1508083688 Moscow TASS in English 0814 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev reports:

"I am going in good working spirits to the state of Nevada to participate in a joint nuclear test control experiment", said Igor Palenykh, head of the USSR delegation to the Soviet-American full-scale negotiations on limitation and termination of nuclear tests, which are being held in Geneva.

"Our specialists, who are already at the Nevada test range, report that everything is ready for a nuclear explosion to be held at 10.00 local time, on August 17. The task of the joint experiment is to determine in practice what perfected measures of verification should be used for control over the Soviet-American treaty dated 1974 on the limitation on underground nuclear weapon tests," Igor Palenykh said in an interview to the TASS correspondent.

Two explosions will be held within the framework of the experiment: one in the United States, at the Nevada test range, on August 17, and the other—in the USSR, at the Semipakatinsk test range, in mid-September. The blast power should be not above 150 kilotonnes and in any case not less than 100 kilotonnes. Both sides will have a possibility to measure on the basis of complete reciprocity the power of the blasts both by the teleseismic means, proposed at the negotiations by the Soviet side and the hydrodynamic method proposed by the American side.

"The Soviet Union hopes that the joint experiment will help find mutually acceptable decisions concerning not only the existing Soviet-American treaties on the limitation on underground nuclear weapon tests, but also further agreements in this area. Our aim is complete and universal prohibition of nuclear tests," Igor Palenykh said.

Commentator on Experiment

LD1208214088 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The head of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva talks on limiting nuclear weapons tests, Robinson, has spoken highly of the progress of preparations for the joint Soviet-U.S. verification [proverka] and monitoring [kontrol] experiment at the test sites in the two countries. Speaking on Thursday on the television network of the U.S. Worldnet news agency, he declared that the confidence-building measures connected with this experiment are the area where the greatest progress has been achieved. People connected with organizations developing nuclear armaments, he said, could not have imagined that this would be possible. Here is our commentator, Vladimir Pasko:

[Pasko] The first stage of the joint Soviet-U.S. experiment to verify [proverka] the yield of nuclear blasts, carried out by the Soviet Union and the United States on their territories, is planned for next Wednesday at the test site in Nevada. The aim of the experiment is to work out effective methods of high-quality verification [kontrol] of compliance with two important Soviet-U.S. treaties: the 1974 treaty limiting underground nuclear weapons tests and the 1976 treaty on underground nuclear blasts for peaceful purposes.

These treaties, which put a 150-kiloton threshold on the yield of blasts, never came into force. The U.S. Administration considered the verification [kontrol] measures they contained inadequate. I will not go into how justified this refusal was. The arguments put foward were criticized by U.S. scientists themselves. They were the co-architects of the initiative aimed at proving that reliable monitoring [kontrol] of nuclear blasts is possible. They began a program of joint experiments last year in Kazakhstan, at the test range near Semipalatinsk, on the basis of an agreement between the U.S. Natural Resource Defense Council and the USSR Academy of Sciences. Subsequently, the initiative of the scientists received support at an international level. A group of U.S. experts is currently preparing an experiment in Semipalatinsk. It is scheduled for September. On 17 August our experts will carry out the experiment in Nevada.

The purpose of the experiment is to see in practice what improved verification [proverka] methods it is desirable to utilize for the purposes of verifying [kontrol] compliance with the treaty. In the view of the Soviet side, the teleseismic method, which does not require the presence at the test site of the personnel carrying out measurements, is fully effective and sufficient. The United States is insisting on the so-called hydrodynamic method, which is based on the taking of measurements at the actual test site. The joint experiment will enable the discussion of this problem to be transferred from the sphere of theoretical debate to a practical level. But this matter, as I think everyone must realize, goes beyond the framework of purely scientific research. At the Moscow summit the sides declared that agreement on effective verification [kontrol] measures that enable the threshold treaties of 1974 and 1976 to be ratified, will be a first stage, after which both countries will begin drawing up further interim limitations on nuclear tests on the way to the ultimate goal of ending them completely. This is the reason for the significance of the experiment that is getting under way. The words of the head of the U.S. delegation about the greatest progress already having been achieved in the area of confidence-building gives grounds for optimism. They give us hope that after many years of arguments, verification [kontrol] measures that satisfy the sides will be drawn up and that a step leading to a complete ban on nuclear tests will finally be taken.

U.S. INF Inspectors Visit Latvia

LD1308171888 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Riga August 13 TASS—A group of inspectors from the United States visited Soviet Latvia, in the Baltic region, on August 12-13 to verify compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty providing for scrapping medium- and shorter-range missiles.

The group inspected the military installation in the city of Jelgava.

Back in Riga, the U.S. inspectors were received by Nikolay Neiland, Latvia's deputy foreign minister.

The trip to the installation was an opportunity to check the data provided by the Soviet side, group leader John Williams told TASS.

Williams added that the group's mission in the USSR had taken six weeks to complete. He credited the atmosphere of glasnost (openness) for the close contacts the group had managed to establish with Soviet representatives during the visit.

The closer both sides were getting to know each other, the better the results, according to the American inspector. He compared the situation with a train that had begun moving and was gaining speed.

Gennadiy Komogortsev, who headed the Soviet side during the inspection, reported strict abidance by the jointly-agreed-upon procedure. Solid-propellant missiles are eliminated by blasting or burning-through, while the RK-55 liquid-propellant cruise missiles (there are some in Jelgava) are scrapped by cutting.

"Missiles at other installations in Latvian territory," Komogortsev added, "will be removed from stand-by alert according to the treaty and will be taken to designated sites beyond Latvia to be scrapped there".

Soviet INF Inspectors Continue Activities

Visit Bases in Belgium

LD1208223588 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] As already reported, Soviet experts have inspected military bases in Belgium in accordance with the INF Treaty.

[K. Mazheyka] Never before have I witnessed such a scene in the capital of a NATO country. The gates of a secret NATO facility—the Sabca aeroequipment plant—were open to our military experts. The atmosphere for the visit of the Soviet inspectors—10 of them—was extremely businesslike. For here, in Gosselies, rests ultimate control over all the cruise missiles deployed in Western Europe. If plant director Gerard Masson is to be believed, by the end of 1989 the plant will have had to change its production angle. The 50 units of first-strike weapons now stored in a concealed place will have been destroyed.

This same fate awaits the 16 cruise missiles already deployed at the U.S Air Force base in Florennes. On the same day and at the same time, a second group of Soviet inspectors visited it. Handshakes and souvenirs—all the trappings of hospitality.

The Belgian newspapers have published a statement by the National Action Committee for Peace and Development, a representative of which was present at Saryozek during the elimination of the first batch of Soviet missiles. This document expresses a fervent welcome for the start of the implementation of the Soviet-U.S. accords. The hope is voiced that both sides will, in the not too distant future, manage to achieve agreement on reducing strategic and conventional weapons and completely destroying chemical weapon arsenals.

Arrive in FRG

LD1208164188 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Bonn August 12 TASS—Today four Soviet inspection groups arrived in the FRG at the U.S. air base near Frankfurt am Main. They will conduct inspections to verify initial data under the Soviet-American Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. They will also inspect other U.S. bases in the FRG.

Two groups of Soviet experts had visited the FRG in the first half of July. They inspected deployment places of U.S. missiles at the bases in Wueschheim and Mutlangen.

According to the DPA agency, the present inspections will be carried out at the bases in Neu Ulm and Heilbronn where Pershing-2 missiles are stationed. Soviet experts will also visit a missile depot in Weilerbach (Rheinland-Pfalz State) and the centre for technical servicing of missles in the area of Frankfurt-Hausen. They will inspect missiles and launchers as well as other facilities.

Check Missile Facilities

LD1308120088 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Bonn August 13 TASS—Four Soviet inspection teams, who arrived in the Federal Republic of Germany for inspections to check the initial data under the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, started their work today. In accordance with the INF Treaty they started checking missiles, launchers and other related facilities at the American bases in Neu-Ulm and Heilbronn, where Pershing-2 missiles are situated, at the missile depot in Weilerbach, Rheinland-Pfalz, and at the missile repair shop in the area of Frankfurt-Hausen.

The Soviet experts are escorted by the representatives of the United States and the FRG Armed Forces, on whose territory American missiles are located. The inspections will end on Sunday.

Complete Tour 14 Aug

LD1408114088 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Bonn August 14 TASS—Four Soviet inspection teams, which arrived in West Germany to check the initial data under the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Eliminating Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, finalised their job Sunday. In accordance with the treaty, they inspected missiles, launchers and several other facilities at the U.S. Neu Ulm and Heilbronn bases which house Pershing-2 missiles, at the missile storage site in Weilerbach, Rheinland-Pfalz, and at the missile maintenance center in the area of Frankfurt-Hausen.

The Soviet experts were accompanied by representatives of U.S. troops and also of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the country in whose territory American missiles are deployed. A unanimous view was expressed that mutual on-site inspections help build up confidence between the USSR and the United States, the East and the West on the whole, and promote peace in Europe.

Commentator on INF, Naval Inspections

LD1108104088 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] As the U.S. Defense Department announced this week, the destruction of Pershings under the INF Treaty is to begin on 8 September near the city of Marshall in Texas. Our commentary by Vladislav Kutiyakov:

Soviet inspectors have been invited to attend the event and Americans in turn have recently observed how the first Soviet missiles were abolished at the testing sites in Kazakhstan and in the Ukraine. [passage omitted]

Under the INF Treaty the Soviet side has agreed not only to eliminate more missiles than the American side but to let Americans inspect more Soviet plants where missiles were built. And as a result the Soviet Union will conduct only about 200 inspections, while the United States about 400.

At the current talks on next moves toward disarmament Moscow is expressing readiness to accept any reciprocal forms of verificaiton. If there is any delay here it seems that it's Washington that is holding things up. For example, one of the measures the Soviet Union proposes for a treaty on 50-percent reductions in strategic offensive weapons provides for mutual inspections of naval ships. But the United States is not ready to let Soviet inspectors on its ships. Or another example, if there is agreement banning weapons in space the Soviet side is ready to establish comprehensive control. That is, to let inspectors through cosmodromes, space craft prior to their launching, through storage and other facilities. But again there is no agreement from those who are developing the SDI program.

Meanwhile, if humanity wants to survive it must give up obsolete stereotypes, especially in matters of openness, control, and inspection. This is the only way to reach the goal set at the first Soviet-American summit in Geneva in 1985: to end the arms race on earth and to prevent an arms race in space.

Levin Responds to Oakley on Arms in Europe

LD1308201688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Phyllis Oakley, an official representative of the U.S. State Department, has stated that NATO will not renounce the preservation of nuclear weapons in Europe and has again called for modernizing shorter-range nuclear missiles, in other words, missiles with a 500-km range. This was reported today from Washington. What does commentator Viktor Levin think about this?

[Levin] A day earlier U.S. General Galvin, commander in chief of NATO forces in Europe, spoke from the same standpoint. This coincidence is clearly deliberate. From this, it seems to me, Washington is beginning a new campaign focused on implementing plans for modernizing short-range nuclear missiles. This is not the first time this idea has been nurtured in NATO circles.

In her statement, Oakley referred to decisions by NATO's highest bodies, which, in her words, support the modernization plans. While the Military Planning Group composed of defense ministers did indeed directly call for modernization, the political leaders at the NATO Council session preferred an ambiguous formulation. The decisions there spoke of the need to maintain nuclear forces at the most up-to-date level. Oakley interprets this decision as support for modernization, but in many countries in Western Europe the view is being expressed that this most up-to-date level already exists. Moreover, the statement by FRG Foreign MInister Genscher that the question on the agenda now is not modernizing weapons but modernizing thinking aroused a broad response. The obviously staged coincidental calls for modernizing weapons by Galvin and Oakley give grounds to conclude that modernizing thinking is having difficulty forcing its way through in Washington. I say having difficulty because the thaw in Soviet-U.S. relations, the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and the demonstration of new approaches to regional conflicts show that in the United States, too, a reappraisal of values is taking place and realism is making itself felt. But the stubborn desire to whip up the nuclear arms race in Europe—and, incidentally, not only nuclear arms—shows that the militarist way of thinking has by no means been shelved.

This is an indisputably unpleasant fact, but I would not call it unexpected or extraordinary. Why not? Because it is naive to think that in a single day, as if at the stroke of a magic wand, everything in the world will change or that reason, based on the indisputable laws of the nuclear age, can overturn dogmas which have been cherished not for years or decades but for centuries.

The path to the future is thorny and steep. But now, more than ever, the feeling of confidence is based on facts. Just take the events of this week: The withdrawal of 50 percent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is coming to an end; agreement has been reached on a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq; and a quadripartite agreement on a peace settlement for the conflict in southwest Africa has been signed. So, taking all these facts into consideration, we can confidently say that the world is opening its eyes and is demonstrating its understanding of the futility of attempts to use military force to resolve political issues.

In my view, it is this and not military ambitions which reflects the trend in the development of international relations.

Chernyshev on Arms Reduction Proposals

LD1208173788 Moscow TASS in English 1634 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—By TASS military news analyst Vladimir Chernyshev:

The beginning of the implementation of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty is regarded in the Soviet Union as the first step towards a nuclear free nonviolent world. The main thing now is turn disarmament into a continuous process. However they in the West keep harping on the need to preserve nuclear weapons, justifying it by the fact that Warsaw Treaty countries allegedly have superiority in conventional armaments.

The USSR and its allies share the West's concern over the objective fact of the existence of huge conventional military potentials, primarily in Europe, and are firmly convinced of the need sharply to reduce military confrontation in this area. As for the thesis about the "superiority" of the Warsaw Treaty over NATO, it does not hold water. In real fact, there is balance of the sides' general military potentials, but it is at a very high level and should be reduced.

The ultimate goal of the talks on this issue must become, according to socialist states, the achievement of roughly equal collective levels in terms of the strength of the armed forces and the amount of conventional weapons for the states which make up two military-political blocs. These levels should be lower than the current levels of any of the sides. Taking into account the disbalances and asymmetries in the certain elements of the armed forces of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, the USSR and its allies expressed the readiness to remove the disparity, which arose in these elements, through the relevant reductions by a side which has advantage. In practical terms, this can be achieved in the form of a "package" of reduction proposals which will provide for a sort of exchange in the types of armaments, in which the sides have advantages, without violating the general balance of forces. Only such approach can be just and does not prejudice the security of either of the sides.

The USSR also proposed a realistic way of revealing the disbalances and asymmetries: to make a mutual exchange of the relevant base data on the general European and regional (central, northern and southern Europe) scale. Moreover, there is another proposal of the Warsaw Treaty countries which is highly important: with the beginning of the talks to hold on-site checks of the official data. This would make it possible to remove the disparities in assessments and avoid the sad experience of discussions over figures, which brought the Vienna talks on reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe to a stalemate.

It would seem that NATO should have seized on such readiness of Warsaw Treaty countries. Instead, however, we hear too vague pronouncements alleging that the relevant concept of disarmament in Europe is being worked out. Maybe NATO is not satisfied with the exchange of official data and their on-site verification?

The following facts come to attention. Without agreeing to bilateral in-depth analysis of the real possibilities of the armed forces of the sides, to comparing the military potentials on the whole, NATO specialists try to underscore the superiority of Warsaw Treaty in separate elements of conventional armaments. In doing so, they completely ignore the air force and navy, the strongest components of the armed forces in which NATO has considerable advantage. I think that the newspaper NEW YORK TIMES was completely right when it described on July 13 as "hypocritical" the contention of NATO specialists that aviation should be disregarded because it allegedly neither captures nor holds the territory. However, the aircraft are undoubtedly an inseparable part of the armed forces, crucial for an offensive.

It should be added that the NATO navy and U.S. naval bases, situated around the territory of the Soviet Union, pose a real danger to the Soviet Union. In particular, 15 American aircraft-carrying units are in fact powerful naval and air force groups which are capable of delivering strikes at the Soviet Union in the beginning of war. This is an objective reality.

By laying emphasis on land forces only, in particular on tanks and artillery, in solving the issues of removing the disbalances and symmetries, they in NATO obviously aim at weakening the USSR, at preserving the strongest components in their armed forces—navy and air force. It should be put bluntly that such an approach is inobjective and unrealistic. The elimination of disbalances and asymmetries can be carried out on a mutual basis, with the interests of security of each of the sides taken into account.

Analyst Views Prospects for Nuclear Reductions

PM1208131988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[Observer Vasiliy Pustov "Military-Political Review": "From Hiroshima to Saryozek"]

[Excerpts] The week ending today is rich in memorable dates and events which are diametrically opposed in terms of their importance for people's destinies. Yesterday, 6 August, was the 43d anniversary of the day the U.S. Air Force used nuclear weapons for the first time in human history, as a result of which the Japanese city of Hiroshima was wiped off the face of the earth. On the other hand, the first act of destroying these weapons was carried out on 1 August: The destruction by detonation of the first batch of Soviet OTR-22 operational-tactical missiles was carried out in Saryozek (Kazakh SSR) in accordance with the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles in the presence of representatives of the world community. Thus, we are talking about two explosions, separated by an interval of many years, which reverberated around the world: one of them to destroy, the other one to preserve life. [passage omitted]

Despite official disclaimers, according to THE WASHINGTON POST secret plans for delivering a first ("disarming" or "decapitating") strike were being hatched by U.S. strategists both during J. Carter's presidency and under the present administration, especially during its first few years. These dangerous goals are pursued through the continuing buildup of the latest strategic offensive weapons: MX ICBM's, highly accurate Midgetman mobile ICBM's, Trident-2 (D-5) submarine-launched ballistic missiles, new B1-B strategic bombers, and strategic cruise missiles. Preparations for production of the fundamentally new B-2 strategic bomber are being accelerated. This aircraft, according to its designers, would be undetectable by modern air defense systems and this would guarantee its first-strike capability.

This is tangible evidence of the continuing desire by certain influential circles on the other side of the Atlantic to disrupt the strategic equilibrium between the USSR and the United States which was established in the early seventies. Our country cannot allow this to happen. We are, after all, talking about equilibrium which, in contemporary conditions, is the decisive factor for preventing a war, about an equilibrium whose maintenance is of interest to all who are concerned about the fate of peace.

Saryozek and 1 August 1988 will go down in history as the place and the date marking the start of the epoch of nuclear disarmament. True enough, this is just a start. After all, under the treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles there are about 2,600 nuclear intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles (about 1,750 Soviet and more than 850 U.S.) due to be destroyed. Skeptics point out that intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles make up less than 5 percent of all Soviet and U.S. nuclear arms. Be that as it may, there is something else that should not be forgotten. First, it is impossible to underrate the importance of this quantity of even less than 5 percent, because it represents hundreds and even thousands of potential "Hiroshimas" with the possible loss of many millions of human lives. Second, the implementation of the treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles will represent the first real destruction of two classes of nuclear weapons in world history, which will reduce the risk of a nuclear apocalypse. And last but by no means least: The reaching of accord on the destruction of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles paves the way for further and even more significant actions in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, and specifically for talks on a 50-percent reduction of Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms. Mankind now faces the real prospect of ridding our planet of approximately 13,000 nuclear combat charges, each one of which is many times more powerful than the bomb which destroyed Hiroshima.

Accord has been reached on such a reduction in principle, but the talks are progressing slowly. So far, for example, there has been no success in reaching accord with the Americans on questions or air-launched and especially sea-launched long-range cruise missiles. Referring to the obviously imaginary lack of effective verification systems, they essentially propose the exclusion of sea-launched long-range cruise missiles from the treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive arms. This would turn such a treaty into a work of fiction.

The SDI program which, as many U.S. experts admit, contradicts the Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty, remains an obstacle to concluding a treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic nuclear arms. In this context the 1 August speech by U.S. Secretary of Defense F. Carlucci at the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy was hardly constructive. Soviet generals and officers could not believe his words that the SDI program is purely defensive and designed simply to destroy ballistic missiles in flight, or that its implementation would, as he said, help to stabilize the world situation.

Such arguments turn many points upside down, as it were. This could not fail to be noticed in the United States itself. The extraordinary danger of this space venture was figuratively described by E.P. Thompson, vice president of the U.S. Committee for Nuclear Disarmament. The "Star Wars" plan, he noted, is "an attempt by U.S. ruling circles to revert to the dark days of Hiroshima"; in the opinion of these circles, "America must once again be in a position to threaten a world which would be unable to deliver a counterstrike."

Camouflaged as defensive for propaganda purposes, SDI is a program for creating an offensive system involving the launching of the latest types of weapons into space in order to guarantee the United States an opportunity to deliver a first disarming strike from space. The transfer of the arms race to space would mean the destabilization of the situation all over the world by jeopardizing the security of peoples in all countries. This would raise doubts about the expediency of curbing strategic offensive arms on earth.

The way out of the prevailing situation, as the July conference of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee noted, is through the conclusion of a treaty on a 50-percent reduction of Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms with strict observance of the ABM Treaty in the form it was signed in 1972 and nonwithdrawal from it for an agreed period of time.

Another memorable anniversary was marked this week: the 25th anniversary of the day when the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain signed the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water in Moscow, fell on 5 August. The treaty, aptly described by U.S. Senator E. Kennedy as "a source of hope for all peoples," has been joined by 114 states, representing the overwhelming majority of states on our planet. A further 14 countries have signed but not yet ratified it.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the Soviet Union expresses the will and aspirations of literally all mankind by its persistent striving over the years to achieve the prohibition and cessation of nuclear tests in the last remaining environment—underground. Our country even went as far as observing a unilateral moratorium on such explosions for 18 months.

Even though the United States failed to follow the Soviet example, there is now what I would call cautious optimism on this issue. An agreement on conducting a joint experiment to monitor underground nuclear explosions was signed at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow. For this purpose a group of Soviet experts are now at the Nevada test site, while a group of U.S. scientists are in the Semipalatinsk region. It is planned to conduct experiments in both places to confirm the possibility of using existing instruments to establish reliable monitoring of underground nuclear explosions. It is intended to move on to discussions on limiting the number and yield of nuclear tests in the future.

A total and universal ban on such tests, which the USSR has been tirelessly pursuing, is a necessary condition for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons the world over. This would also be a most important measure for curbing the nuclear arms race.

As we can see, there are certain incipient positive changes in the world. But even so, we cannot talk about them being irreversible. Because we can sense the effect produced by forces which yearn for the exacerbation of international tension as in the past.

But an awareness of the danger of relying on strength is growing even in the West. Resolute rejection of such reliance, of the fatal course of escalating the nuclear and other arms race, and of the idea of gaining military superiority, and a joint quest for ways to a better future for all mankind—this is the commandment of the time. This is indeed the goal of Soviet foreign policy based on the new thinking.

Medvedev Briefs Leaders of Diplomatic Missions

LD0508005688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Comrade Medvedev met with the heads of diplomatic missions of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, Kampuchea, the PDRK, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia in the Soviet Union. During the conversation, the diplomats were briefed on the work taking place in the USSR with regard to the practical implementation of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the results of the July 1988 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Replies were given to questions from participants in the meeting.

Further on Briefing

PM0708131788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Meeting at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met with the heads of the diplomatic missions of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the GDR, Cambodia, the DPRK, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia in the Soviet Union on 4 August.

During the talk, the diplomats were briefed on the work under way in the USSR to implement in practice the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and on the results of the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum.

The main avenues of the implementation of the restructuring of the political system, the content and work style of party committees and their apparatuses, the radical economic reform, and the resolution of the urgent tasks of improving Soviet people's prosperity were discussed. The organic relationship between the CPSU's active domestic and foreign policy and the importance of developing multifaceted cooperation with all socialist countries and of joint efforts to fundamentally improve the international situation were stressed.

The meeting participants' questions were answered.

Southern Group Commander Meets Friendship Society

LD0208014588 Budapest MTI in English 1808 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Budapest, August 1 (MTI)—Brigadier-General Matvey Burlakov, the new commander of the Soviet Southern Army group, stationed temporarily in Hungary, made an introductory call at the headquarters of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society (HSFS). Antal Apro, the chairman of the society, briefed him and his party on the country's situation. Burlakov underlined the importance of the mutual information and praised the balanced relations between the Hungarian and Soviet Armed Forces.

'Observers Roundtable' on Afghanistan, Gulf

LD1408183088 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 14 Aug 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Radomir Georgiyevich Bogdanov, doctor of history and professor and deputy director of the USA and Canada Institute; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, political observer; and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, All-Union Radio commentator]

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrades! In our program "International Observers Roundtable" we usually concentrate attention upon the events of the past week. And we are not going to depart from that rule today, even though we are facing a very serious date, tomorrow's date, 15 August, when the withdrawal of 50 percent of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan is due to be completed. The withdrawal of the current group of troops began a few days ago and tomorrow is to witness that very important moment, a moment which is in the nature of a landmark. This provides us with very serious and substantial grounds for returning once again to events in and around Afghanistan and it seems to me that in the first place one has to stress that the Soviet Union and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan are carrying out strictly and scrupulously all the obligations that they took upon themselves under the Geneva agreements.

[Shishlin] Even more than that: I think it's even more than that. I'm thinking in particular about the recent visit to Kabul by Eduard Amvrosyevich Shevardnadze and the intensive talks which took place between our foreign affairs minister and the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, different circles of the Afghan public and Afghan business people. I view that visit not just as being a symbol of the strengthening of Soviet-Afghan relations, as a symbol of the durability of these relations, but as the manifestation of the real concern of the Soviet Union to ensure that the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan is an act that not only in no way encourages a weakening of the position of the Republic of Afghanistan but which, on the contrary, would make it possible for the Republic of Afghanistan to deal with the things that every Afghan is striving for: Making the homeland one of peace and dealing with peaceful affairs. I said every Afghan, and it's true, I want to make a reservation as regards what I said myself, because Afghanistan, the Afghan situation, was and remains extremely dramatic and complicated and our listeners have been able to read in the press about the conditions under which the withdrawal of Soviet troops is being carried out and is proceeding: And the armed opposition is striving to create obstacles to this process. And it seems to me that the test of strength that the armed opposition has been trying to impose throughout these first 3 months of implementation of the withdrawal of our contingent from Afghanistan, well this trial of strength has not been crowned with success...

[Levin, interrupting] For the opposition.

[Shishlin] Yes, and I think that the Republic has shown both the capabilities that it has at its disposal for defending itself and it is characteristic that in the visit of the Soviet foreign affairs minister to that country one can see through to the tomorrow, to the day when Afghanistan is at peace, when the whole of the nation's strength will indeed have to be concentrated upon restoring the economy, which has of course been seriously undermined by the war, and also upon the solution of those very complicated tasks which face that society which has a very, very great deal to do both in the area of politics, of economics and of culture.

[Bogdanov] Nikolay Vladimirovich, don't you think that the Afghan problem in that very complex, summarized form in which you have just described it, has another very important dimension, too, the international dimension. I would like, so to speak, to erect a bridge to one very major event. Its importance, I believe, is difficult to assess today because it has only just taken place. I have in mind the fact that a couple of days ago a truce, a cease-fire was announced in the terrible war, the senseless war—terrible in its senselessness—between Iran and Iraq.

[Shishlin] Just one small thing needs to be put more precisely: On 8 August it was announced that at 2 o'clock Greenwich Mean Time on 20 August a cease-fire goes into force.

[Levin] That's 7 [as heard] Moscow time.

[Shishlin] Quite right.

[Levin] Effectively, however, combat operations are already petering out there.

[Bogdanov] Yes, the combat operations are petering out, a group of observers has been formed from officers and generals from the UN Organization, but that's not even what I am thinking of. I would like to put one question on the table for you: What, then, is the link between this situation and the Afghan situation? It has always seemed to me—and I think that you will agree with me—that the solution of the Afghan problem, the political solution of the Afghan problem, would signal the start, if you wish, of a new era in international relations. With all those difficulties that you have been speaking about linked with internal Afghan development, an event of epoch-making importance has taken place: For the first time in decades an armed conflict is being resolved by political means. Tell me please, do you think that there is any link between the halting of the Iran-Iraq war and the settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan? I am convinced that there is a direct link, an intellectual link, if you like, and there is a factual link. And another question: The settlement process that is taking place in the south of Africa is extremely interesting. Tell me, please, is there a link there with the Afghan settlement or is there not? I'm asking you the questions and I'd be interested in hearing your answers.

[Shishlin] You know that you and I think the same way and so I'm not going to argue with you. It seems to me that there is a link to be seen here in many areas. It would be wrong to present things as though there's the Soviet Union, the United States, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, they've worked out the Geneva agreements, they've used political resources to overcome one of the most acute and most dangerous regional conflicts; as though everyone's taken a look and as if bewitched has said: What an excellent example! We're going to act in exactly the same way.

I think that the link that comes through there is primarily one of a different kind: Whether it's the south of Africa, whether it's the Iran-Iraq war, whether it's the crisis in Afghanistan, all of these crisis situations, like others that we haven't mentioned, prove that there is a limit to the effectiveness and productiveness of the use of force. It turns out that in the present-day world and under present-day conditions the use of armed force is certainly no guarantee that a problem is going to be resolved in a satisfactory manner. Primacy and priority have to be given to political means. And it seems to me that both Baghdad and Tehran have convinced themselves of this, but they have convinced themselves at a terribly dear price, of course, a terribly dear price: The undermining of their own economies, and quite simply terrible losses in terms of human lives. This is proved both by the situation in Africa and by the situation in Cambodia.

And there is yet another link. I think it is a very profound link. What is taking place now as far as regional conflicts are concerned, the unfreezing of the settlement of these conflicts, this must all the same be linked with those wider processes that we are witnessing in international affairs, with that difficult but progressive process of asserting the new political thinking. And here, if you like, there is a link between the situation in the regional conflicts and the Soviet-U.S. dialogue and those efforts which are being made by ourselves and by our friends in Europe in forming the concept of the common European home: That is to say, the whole of that process of improving international relations and moving away from that edge of the precipice where mankind found itself. There are elements of all of this present in the new manifestations that are taking place.

[Bogdanov] Naturally I have no objections to the assessments that you have given. But I would nevertheless like to return to the fact that Afghanistan was indeed the process—even though you say that it could not have been the case that everyone looked at Afghanistan and decided there's the example to follow: How many months it took to get to the Geneva agreements!

[Shishlin] It took several years!

[Bogdanov] Several years! And the whole world was watching to see whether it would come off or whether it would not come off. In this sense I still think that the Geneva agreements were the catalyst for all other processes covering the settlement of regional problems and I am even willing to argue with you and to assert that it was perhaps the very moment when the Geneva agreements were signed and when the first Soviet tanks and APC's began to leave Afghanistan that they began to think in Baghdad and in Tehran and in the capitals of southern Africa: That's it, the beginning of the great moment of truth. Let's begin doing things, too. Wasn't there even some kind of psychological relief, say, for all sides that have been taking part in these conflicts? In this sense I believe that Afghanistan was a catalyst.

Moreover, I have a feeling—and may God grant that this be the case—that the solution, the political solution of the Afghan problem perhaps gives us grounds to talk about the emergence of a post-Afghanistan era in international relations. Perhaps we can even talk of such a thing.

[Shishlin] But still, I would focus attention on the fact that it is against the general backdrop of the new situation arising in international relations that it has become possible to achieve a breakthrough to new positions as regards settling regional conflicts. As far as the Afghan situation is concerned things stand as follows: The Afghan solution in itself constitutes an element in the fundamental shaping of this new atmosphere, rather than being just a consequence. And in this respect you are absolutely right. I do not yet know which is more important—the scrapping of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles or the settlement of the Afghan problem...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Yes, I agree.

[Levin] Yes, but they can hardly be separated from one another, all the same.

[Shishlin] And I have no intention of doing so. There isn't even any need to weigh them up, but at least, at the very minimum, it is of no lesser significance—the solution of the Afghan problem which is now proceeding. In this sense, of course, now, on the eve of the completion of withdrawal of 50 percent of our troops who were in Afghanistan, it ought to be mentioned, in general, that the returnees are unsullied in the eyes of the motherland, unsullied in the eyes of history. They have performed deeds which are noble in the highest degree and they are not bringing a single pebble of Afghan soil back with them. They are leaving behind them in Afghanistan deeds which really were dedicated to defending that country's independence and sovereignty, as President Najibullah stated only the other day. But to come back to what Radomir Georgiyevich said: In this sense, of course, I think that one may have to move somewhat further away in time to properly appreciate the extent of the impact of everything that is happening to shape international relations tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. And not only as regards regional conflicts, but also as regards international relations as such, as regards the future of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue, and as regards our relations with all our neighbors, near and far.

[Levin] I think what you have just said, Nikolay Vladimirovich, about the Afghan settlement also becoming possible only on the basis of the development of the new political thinking is a key idea; it is indisputable that the Afghan settlement is, of course, a very important step which will have a continuing influence on the further course of events; yet if it weren't for the shoots of new political thinking it would hardly have been possible. In this vein, I would like to note not only the fact that the warming-up of Soviet-U.S. relations and the Soviet-U.S. dialogue, which has begun and is now developing, had a role to play, but that the role of the United Nations also deserves the very kindest words of praise here.

Both in the Afghan settlement and in settling the Iran-Iraq conflict and in other processes, too, the United Nations plays a very great and very active role. We have already mentioned that a cease-fire decision has now been reached between Iran and Iraq for the 20th. On the 25th, Iran-Iraq talks are to begun under the aegis of the UN secretary general, and Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, thinks—in my view perfectly reasonably—that those talks between Iran and Iraq should be held at least at foreign minister level, in order to lend them weight and authority straight away.

It's very interesting that a group of observers consisting of 350 people has been set up. Incidentally, a Yugoslav general has been appointed as leader of this group. He is 58 years old, but managed to be an active partisan during the War—he was very young, but he fought against the fascist aggressors. Recently he has held the post of, well, I would describe it as leader of the international department of the Yugoslav military department—he liaised with the military attaches of foreign embassies represented in Yugoslavia.

It is known that there are to be two groups of these observers, both of equal size—one in Iran and the other in Iraq—and that one of the groups will be led by an Indian representative. Another interesting point to note is that the observers include representatives of Hungary and Poland. The other thing I would say is that the first groups have already set off for Teheran and Baghdad.

Here, then, certain processes are begining, very interesting processes, although at the same time the view is being expressed—expressed by FRANCE-PRESSE agency, though it is by no means the only agency to take such a guarded, I would say attitude—that a cease-fire does not yet mean peace. Of course, a cease-fire does not yet mean peace, but it is no longer war, and that is probably a very important point. We've already said that it was a senseless war and one with terribly grave consequences. Here are a few figures: The hostilities continued for almost 8 years, and incidentally, nobody is giving precise data—I met...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] It's amusing—excuse me for interrupting you—that today if you were to ask even us around this table why it all began, I'm sorry but I don't remember the cause of that war. It would be interesting to know who can remember today.

[Levin] Well, to be honest, I can remember, but I'd rather not talk about it. [chuckles] The thing is that it began because of a territorial dispute, and now there is an agreement in principle that the sides should withdraw to the generally-recognized borders, the borders that existed before September 1980 when the conflict began, and that the territorial dispute should be solved by, once again, political methods. Now, as for the question of the casualties sustained, the press puts human losses at between 500,000 to 1 million and all observers agree that the casualty ratio is approximately two to one—two dead Iranians for every dead Iraqi. The material damage runs to hundreds of billions of dollars. ARD [FRG broadcasting organization] in West Germany reckons that the war cost the two sides between 300 and $1,000 billion.

[Shishlin] A thousand billion is 1 trillion.

[Levin] It's 1 trillion, but somehow billions are easier to grasp. A trillion is a concept of almost astronomical magnitude. I've even come across the view of some economists that Iraq will need at least 27 years to rebuild its economy, while Iran will need as many as 90 years. Well, I think all the same, that economists make mistakes in such cases, but nonetheless the sacrifices are, of course, tremendous, colossal sacrifices, and if today we can say that the first step has been taken toward ending that dreadful bloodshed, that destructive war, then it is unquestionably a very substantial step forward, a step forward not only in relations between Iran and Iraq.

[Shishlin] Viktor Nikolayevich, in connection with what you have been saying about the Iran-Iraq war and your correct view of the role of the United Nations, which was indisputably a constructive force in putting an end to that war—the efforts made by the Security Council, the well-known Resolution 598, its other actions and the efforts by the UN secretary general—I would, in this case, also do justice to the actions of Soviet diplomats, who consistently and persistently persuaded Teheran and Baghdad that it was time to stop talking in the language of weapons, that they had to talk in the language of politics and move toward peace. Incidentally, when it was announced that this progress had been made towards a cease-fire, both the Iranian and Iraqi sides noted quite publicly and openly the significance of Soviet diplomacy in ending the conflict. By the way, the cease-fire decision was also welcomed by the United States, though it has a problem of its own here—the problem as you know, of the presence of a U.S. military squadron in the Persian Gulf. If the war is brought to an end I don't think the United States will continue to keep in the Persian Gulf 30 of its warships, or a few...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Nikolay Vladimirovich, there has already been a statement by the Defense Department, the Pentagon, that they will start reducing their military presence in the Persian Gulf, but Secretary of Defense Carlucci made one very substantial reservation: Nobody should expect this presence to be reduced to zero; it will continue for the forseeable future and for many long years. The question is what kind of presence will it be?

[Shishlin] Yes in my view it was also mentioned there that the U.S. military flag has been hoisted in the Persian Gulf since the end of World War II.

[Bogdanov] Yes, since World War II. Could you tell me—I would just like a second to put this question to you—I keep wanting today to ask my colleagues questions.

[Levin] And you are the one answering them.

[Bogdanov] Yes, but I have my own problems, if you wish. What do you think of this sudden—I would say sudden indeed—revival of the role of the United Nations Organization? Is this a chance phenomenon or is it despite everything a phenomenon conditioned by the new political thinking, or by new world realities or by both put together? We have become accustomed—there is no point in hiding it—to the fact that as short a time as just 5 years ago hardly anyone read about what was going on in the United Nations. For it was so boring. People were so fed up with it. If you recall—it was unpleasant, that's what was so dreadful.

[Levin] It was ineffective, ineffective.

[Bogdanov] And if you also recall the notorious voting machine of 20-30 years ago, you will recall that we had nothing at all other than an allegorical perception of this organization. All of a sudden this organization has shown such vitality. I can see a certain starting point. I would say that the well-known article by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, which raised the subject of a new role for the United Nations and a revival of its bodies—including its military and headquarters bodies—was not this the starting point of something that has led to these completely new actions on the part of the United Nations?

Here is another question. Have we not come back to the universal instrument—one does not need to look for it or build it afresh—which incidentally was intended as a means of maintaining peace? Has not the time already come, the time when we have returned to this universal instrument for maintaining peace? Surely, if this is so, this is a major event. And what is happening in August seems to speak precisely in favor of my point of view. An international organization, the largest one, is being reborn in a very major way. It is turning into an effective means of struggling for preserving and maintaining peace.

[Levin] Yet there are also problems here. We have mentioned, for example, that the United States does not intend to pull out its Navy completely from the Persian Gulf zone even now when distinct prospects of an end to the Iran-Iraq war are already taking shape. But I am...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] And another thing incidentally is that they are not giving the money: $400 million is virtually going to paralyze the operation of the UN administrative and military mechanism.

[Levin] This is precisely what I wanted to say. It has been calculated that 6 months of work by a UN observers' group—some of them are to be placed in Iran and Iraq—requires about $74 million. The U.S. debt, however, to the United Nations today amounts to $467 million. And incidentally, a special sitting of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly is to be held this Tuesday to consider financial questions.

What is very curious is the way the United States is now formulating its position. I am basing myself on the words of Oakley, a State Department official spokeswoman. She said that our budget debts are one thing, but financing a group of observers and financial provision for the activity of UN observers regarding the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq is something else. And since usually in such international operations carried out by the United Nations we take it upon ourselves to finance 30.6 percent of an overall cost of an operation, we calculate 30.6 percent of 74 million and this equals $23 million. And we will probably give the $23 million.

It will cover part of the debt. She was immediately asked: Well, all right, but the $23 million are surely just a small proportion of the debt. Yes, it is a problem, Oakley said, we are concerned about it and we are holding consultations. But I cannot offer you anything more specific.

Considering all the conditions that are now being created, considering the role of the United Nations that has undoubtedly been enhanced, the U.S. financial debt is certainly not just in arrears with payments. It is a means for the United States to exert financial pressure on the United Nations, which, in its present form, is not quite to U.S. taste.

[Shishlin] What Radomir Georgiyevich talked about is very essential. It seems to me that the actual article by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was prompted by the realities that have already emerged in international actuality. It reflected these realities. And I remember this article well, in fact. It talked about the wealth of the modern world, about the existence of various groups of states and about the need for a search for a balance of interests in this area. One can look for this balance of interests on the basis and in the framework of bilateral dialogue or some multilateral discussions. But put simply, no one can of course invent an organization that is more universal than the United Nations.

[Levin] And it is not necessary.

[Shishlin] In this respect I would agree with the idea that the enhancement of the UN role—not on the level of some epithets or definitions, but by allowing, really and actively, the United Nations to join in tackling very complex modern international problems—reflects the fact that, I would put it this way, that the world is becoming somewhat cleverer, despite everything. Having peeped into a precipice, people begin to realize that acting the way we acted yesterday and the day before yesterday is unthinkable if we wish to preserve this peace and strengthen it. And I imagine that it is precisely the phenomena that we have talked about today, related predominantly to the possibilities of settling regional conflicts by political means, together with our actual discussion itself, that generally show that certain changes today in the development of international relations touch not only USSR-U.S. or East-West relations, but they also spread to a broader spectrum of international problems.

[Bogdanov] Nikolay Vladimirovich, in other words, you are putting all this on a very optimistic note appropriate for the month of August, approporiate for August. I want to stress that in this respect this month is very unusual. It is not the first time that we take part in this program. But I for example, do not remember a single program so rich with positive events, although the month of August is such a narrow time span.

[Shishlin] It seems that when the world is becoming cleverer it weighs up more carefully the actions that it takes. Solutions are found. It comes to light that there are no dead ends in politics, and that every dead end has a way out. I think that what is taking place during the month of August is generally a tendency, and a strong tendency.

[Bogdanov] You see, Nikolay Vladimirovich, how many times we have expressed hope together, trying to convince our listeners that everything in this world was changing for the better. But it is perhaps the first time that we have a whole range of very firm facts at our disposal, the first time that we can express not only hope but list these facts and say: Yes, this has already happened.

[Levin] With great satisfaction we can close this program and hope that our subsequent programs will take place in no less optmistic a spirit. Thank you, esteemed comrades, for your attention. All the best to you.

'International Situation' Views Disarmament

LD1208223388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 12 Aug 88

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program, presented by Konstantin Patsyuk, All-Union Radio commentator, with Vladimir Ivanovich Bogachev, TASS military observer; Colonel Viktor Ivanovich Filatov, chief editor of VOYENNO-ISTORICHESKIY ZHURNAL; international affairs journalist Aleksandr Khorshunov; Yuriy Isayev, not further identified; and commentator Aleksandr Malikov]

[Excerpts] [Patsyuk] More than 2 months have passed since the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. In connection with this many radio listeners ask: How are the terms of the treaty being implemented? We have asked Vladimir Bogachev, TASS military observer, to answer this question. Over to you:

[Bogachev] The process of the physical destruction of U.S. and Soviet missiles began on 1 August. In particular, four OTR-22 shorter-range missiles were blown up in the Kazakhstan town of Saryozek. It won't be an exaggeration to call this event truly historic. For the first time missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons were destroyed not because they had become obsolete or because they had fallen into disrepair but because their very existence is too dangerous for mankind. This was an unprecedented act of real nuclear disarmament. A report has been received that 18 Soviet missile launch installations will be liquidated in Ukraine in August and dismantling has already begun.

[Patsyuk] The question naturally arises of when the process of eliminating U.S. missiles will begin. We already know—this was reported by the Pentagon—that on 8 September the United States is planning to begin operations for the destruction of Pershing missile motors at an ammunition works in the state of Texas.

[Bogachev] Yes, that's right. The first Pershing-2 missiles should also be dismantled in mid-September at the U.S. base in Heilbronn in the FRG. They will be dispatched in containers to the United States and destroyed there.

[Patsyuk] You referred to the process of destroying missiles, as far as I know, by means of detonation. Are any other methods envisaged for their destruction?

[Bogachev] A protocol of the INF Treaty envisages the elimination of missiles by detonation or by combustion. Up to 100 medium-range missiles, without nuclear warheads, of course, can be destroyed by each side in the course of the 6 months after the ratification of the treaty by means of a launch into the ocean or into certain regions on dry land. The casing of the nose cone of the missile is squashed under a press. Launch installations and auxiliary equipment are made unusable by the most diverse methods. Motors for U.S. Pershing missiles will be installed in special ferro-concrete structures. They will be started up and will work until the fuel in them is totally consumed. Then the motor will be crushed and buried in the ground on the territory of the ammunition works in the state of Texas. Most of the Soviet missiles will be destroyed by means of detonation. The Americans prefer to eliminate their missile systems by means of combustion.

[Patsyuk] How is the process of verifying [proverki] the destruction of missiles according to the treaty organized?

[Bogachev] The inspectors of the other side are obliged to be present during the destruction of the missile and auxiliary equipment of one side. Since the 1 July corresponding groups of Soviet and U.S. inspectors have been working in the United States and in the Soviet Union. Apart from anything else, verifing data on the numbers of missiles is very distinctive. The inspectors announce which bases or depots they want to check and the other side is obliged to convey them to the place in no more than 9 hours after this notification, so that the possibility of hiding spare missiles is reduced to a minimum. For example, U.S. inspectors at the testing ground of Kapustin Yar demanded that one of the Soviet missiles, an RSD-10, be dismantled, to be convinced that this really is the class of missile offered to them for inspection. Their request was carried out, although later the dismantled missile had to be transported to a field and blown up earlier than scheduled. Keeping it in a dismantled state with fuel and ignition elements was unsafe.

[Patsyuk] One can say that both sides have already accumulated experience in inspection work and that as a whole it is proceeding successfully. Isn't that so, Vladimir Ivanovich?

[Bogachev] Yes that's so, Konstantin Nikolayevich. The life and leisure of members of inspection groups is well organized both in the United States and in the Soviet Union. Brigadier General Roland Lajoie, head of the U.S. agency for conducting inspections at sites, jokingly noted that it is far more complicated to organize the reception of a group of inspectors by one's own side than to carry out inspections at sites of the other side. Members of the first Soviet group of inspectors in the United States noticed that U.S. attitudes toward them became more benevolent after they received a report that the work of U.S. inspectors in the Soviet Union was taking place in good conditions.

[Patsyuk] Listener Shevtsov from the settlement of Chistoozernoye in Rostov Oblast asks: Is it right to destroy all components of missiles for, he believes, they can be used in the national economy.

[Bogachev] The treaty permits the use of former mobile launch installations, means of transport, including tractors, in the national economy. Some of the missile apparatus and mechanisms are also not destroyed. Representatives of Soviet industry have announced their intention to make wide use in peaceful production valuable metals such as gold, silver, and platinum which are used in the guidance elements of missiles, while the nuclear component extracted from the warheads is intended to be used in civilian reactors. It is difficult to say what the Americans will do with nuclear fuel. According to the treaty, the main components of missiles and the launch installations, as I was saying before, are subject to destruction. [passage omitted]

[Patsyuk] Comrade Iofinov from Klimovsk, Moscow Oblast, was interested in what was said in one of our broadcasts by Colonel Viktor Ivanovich Filatov about events surrounding Afghanistan. At the same time he cast doubt on the fact that there were occasions when our shells and bombs did not explode after they had been fired or dropped on dushman positions. Comrade Iofinov, who for 15 years was engaged in acceptance of military equipment from industry, says that he does not believe this: It is a slander on the acceptance system. We have once again invited to the microphone Viktor Ivanovich Filatov. He is now chief editor of the VOYENNO-ISTORICHESKIY ZHURNAL. We have asked him to share his ideas about what was said in the listener's letter. Over to you:

[Filatov] On 9 August this year KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carried an article by Army General Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov, USSR defense minister. The article is entitled: The Qualitative Parameters of Military Construction. It tells how in the contemporary stage of development restructuring is deepening in military construction. An integral part of this is, as is known, the construction of the Armed Forces. This is specifically embodied in the defensive nature of Soviet military doctrine. Stressing the qualitative indices of military construction, the defense minister writes, is aimed not at intensifying the military might of the Armed Forces—and this has to be most definitely stressed—but at maintaining this might at a level that prevents anyone from gaining military superiority over us and guarantees the reliable protection of the peaceful work and peaceful life of Soviet people. That is how the defense minister sees the task.

[Patsyuk] Is there anything in that article about the quality of equipment?

[Filatov] I would like to speak about that now. The emphasis on quality with regard to equipment, the defense minister writes, relates primarily to radically improving its reliability, improving its combat qualities. That is the task which our scientists, designers, engineers, technicians, and workers in the defense industry are resolving jointly with military specialists and men of the Armed Forces. Reserves do exist here and, not infrequently, these are considerable reserves which must be persistently exploited.

I would urgently recommend Comrade Iofinov from Klimovsk and other comrades interested in how restructuring is proceeding in our Armed Forces to read with attention this article by the defense minister. What they read will make much clear, particularly with regard to what problems our Armed Forces are dealing with at present.

[Patsyuk] Viktor Ivanovich, as I have already said, you are now in a new role. How do you now see the problem of Afghanistan, and not only of Afghanistan, from the historical viewpoint, so to speak?

[Filatov] You have rightly noted that Afghanistan is now becoming part of our military history. It is already time, today, for our military historians to take up this theme, to interpret those events in order to draw lessons, so that our children should not have to talk about the so-called blank spots which we now talk about with regard to the Finnish War and the Great Patriotic War, particularly its opening period.

By the way, on this subject, we are already planning to have an article in one of our next editions by Lieutenant General Gromov, the army commander from Afghanistan. We also plan to have articles in our magazine by all Army Commander Gromov's predecessors. We also intend this year to publish an interview with the chief of the political department who worked with him at one time in Afghanistan. I am referring to Major General Shcherbakov. At present he is first deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the Moscow Military District. We will probably devote one of the editions of the magazine totally to Afghanistan, naturally proceeding from the specific features of our magazine.

In general next year we intend to promote the practice of single theme issues. For example, we are considering devoting one issue fully to the Battle for Moscow, to the Kharkov operation, the Kursk Battle and, for example, to military operations in the Arctic. Of course, new archive documents and research which reviews the events of those years more objectively will without fail be included.

A discussion is under way on the pages of our magazine about the initial period on the Great Patriotic War. We think that our leading scholars and specialists on this period of the war will give their view points. In particular, we have invited academician Samsonov to contribute to the magazine. We hope that he will accept our invitation and give his opinion. We hope that not only academicians will take part in the discussions but also rank-and-file wartime toilers, those who won the victory.

[Patsyuk] As you have mentioned the things you intend to publish in your magazine, maybe you could dwell on some of them in more detail.

[Filatov] Today, the situation is such for our magazine and for all others, too, that it is no longer possible simply to limit oneself to the phrase that there existed an order from Stalin with the number 227 which was known among the people as the order: not a single step back. Today this order should be read by everyone, and we publish it in full without any deletions in the August issue.

Today it is not enough to say that Tukhachevskiy was a talented military leader. Today it is necessary to publish his works. And we have prepared for publication one of his very first articles which bears the title: The Outbreak of the Civil War. When one reads it one can comprehend the degree of talent, the breadth of vision of that military leader.

In the 10th issue we are beginning to publish extensive foreign archives material devoted to the so-called (?RGK) [Reserve Supreme Command] plot. It was precisely over this matter that Tukhachevskiy and the other military men were shot. Our colleagues are now doing a lot of work on the German archives which were seized from the Hitlerites during the war. For example, we will look at the Battle for Moscow in the magazine also from the viewpoint of the Hitlerite generals. We will extensively publish their orders, instructions, diary entries, and letters. We consider that only by reviewing both viewpoints can one come to any objective judgment. For example, one of the comtemporary German sources gives the following number of prisoners which they took in the period from 22 June to September 1941: the figure is about 2 million. About 2 million and not more than 4 million, which is stated in some of our publications about the initial period of the war.

In this connection I would like to say this. At present because of my work I read a lot of material from Western military magazines including military historical ones. A vast number of articles are published which scrupulously examine our military actions on the German front. They write with great respect about our soldiers and generals. I have the impression that the NATO military men very attentively study our combat experience and teach the young people from our combat experience. Everyone can convince himself of this by reading translations of some of these articles in our magazine. Their recurring theme is: Learn from the Russians how one should defend the homeland and how to be victorious. [passage omitted citing Korshunov on U.S. and Soviet military doctrines; Patsyuk on U.S. policy of defending Israel; Isayev on situation in Panama; Patsyuk on famine and arms expenditure in Third World; Malikov on Indian-Sri Lankan agreement; Patsyuk on reasons for Klaus Barbie not being sentenced to death]

Delegation Chief Kashlev on CSCE Talks

PM1208125188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Results of Latest Round"]

[Text] Vienna, 5 Aug—The plenary session of the Vienna meeting of representatives of CSCE states has summed up the results of the latest round, which began in the middle of April. In his speech Soviet delegation head Yu.B. Kashlev noted that socialist countries' foreign policy initiatives and the processes taking place in those countries are making it possible to raise all-European cooperation in the military, political, economic, and humanitarian spheres to a new level. It has been possible in Vienna to draft on this basis an extensive array of new accords on the aforementioned questions. It is considered here that at least 90 percent of the text of the meeting's final document has already been agreed in practice. Agreement on the program of measures to take place after Vienna is almost completed; these include the continuation of the talks on military confidence-building measures held in Stockholm, the beginning of new talks on reducing armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, and the holding of all-European forums in the sphere of the economy, trade, science, environmental protection, and culture. A proposal to convene a conference in Moscow on developing humanitarian cooperation is under consideration.

Sufficient groundwork has been laid on the whole to enable the Vienna meeting to conclude with substantial results as quickly as possible and begin implementing the planned program, including beginning talks on conventional armaments before this year is out, the Soviet representative said.

The work of the Vienna meeting will resume on 29 August.

United States & Canada

Vorontsov Receives Reagan Message for Gorbachev
LD1208111088 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov today received the U.S ambassador to the Soviet Union, Jack Matlock, who conveyed a message from President Ronald Reagan to General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev.

They exchanged views on issues of limiting nuclear and space arms building on the talks held during the Moscow summit meeting.

Paper Cites Carlucci Television Interview
PM1208091588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Carlucci Television Interview"]

[Text] New York, 10 Aug—The 9 August ABC television "Good Morning America" program showed an interview with U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, who has just visited the Soviet Union.

Answering a question from the program's presenter, Charles Gibson, about whether this visit was "symbolic or filled with real content," Carlucci replied: "No, it was very thorough. Defense Minister Yazov and I had an ordinary agenda. We worked on the process of reducing the possibility of dangerous incidents in which people may suffer and we elaborated a program for contacts between the military.

"We approached the discussion of military doctrines very seriously. This time the Russians took an unprecedented step by enabling me to address approximately 200 of their generals and admirals. I spoke to them about the essence of U.S. society, about how a free society cannot be aggressive, and briefed them on our alarm over the offensive structure of their Armed Forces and the fact that their military machine swallows up enormous resources.

"We thus had a very thorough exchange of opinions. In addition I saw their Armed Forces in action. And I must say that they have very good equipment and very well-trained personnel."

U.S. Not Planning To Reduce Gulf Presence
LD1308084588 Moscow TASS in English 0746 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Washington August 13 TASS—Despite the existing prospects of the settlement of the Iranian-Iraq conflict, the U.S. is not going to reduce its naval operations in the Persian Gulf and to bring down the number of its naval vessels in the region. This follows from today's report of WASHINGTON POST which quotes statements of senior Pentagon officials.

Although the newspaper reported that the Pentagon had postponed the dispatching to the region of another missile-carrying cruiser, it pointed out that no decision had been taken on postponing the sending of other ships to the Persian Gulf area. "This is a temporary postponement for the purpose of evaluating the situation", a Pentagon spokesman said.

At present 27 U.S. naval ships are deployed in the Persian Gulf area. Four ships are going to sail there off the naval bases located on the eastern coast of the United States in order to replace them.

The Pentagon officials said as well that no plans existed today of the withdrawal of naval ships from the Persian Gulf.

The newspaper admitted that a peace agreement would perceptibly reduce the need in the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf. Iran and Iraq agreed to put ceasefire into effect starting from August 20 and to begin peace talks in Geneva five days afterwards.

Scientists Visit U.S. Computer Firms
LD1308095288 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] New York August 13 TASS—By TASS correspondent Vladimir Kikilo:

A delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which stayed here at the invitation of a number of American companies, producing hard- and software for computers, has ended its visit to the USA.

Soviet scientists and specialists visited plants of the companies Wang, Micropro, Datapro Research Corp, International Data Corp and Autos Computer Corp, where they could familiarise themselves with the American computer technology. They met with the firms' senior management to discuss the possibility of their participation in developing computer facilities in the USSR, prospects for creating joint ventures to produce computers and software.

According to corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Anatoliy Stogniy, head of the delegation, the meetings of the Soviet scientists were fruitful from the point of view of establishing useful contacts with American computer manufacturers. "We got convinced," he said, "that the firms in that branch are seriously interested in developing business relations with the Soviet Union."

An agreement with the firm Ashton-Tate, which has a high reputation in the field of software, is a proof that such cooperation will benefit both countries. This autumn it will display samples of hard- and software, designed in the USSR, at a large international fair in the USA.

U.S., Soviet Teachers Begin Workshop

LD1308095088 Moscow TASS in English 0835 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] New York August 13 TASS—By TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin:

What needs to be done to provide an American schoolboy with unbiased information on the past and present of the USSR? Are there Soviet coevals as presented by teachers and textbook capable of forming an objective view of the United States? If not, how can the situation be rectified? These questions were in the centre of attention at the Soviet-U.S. workshop, currently under way at Hampshire University, Massachusetts.

The seminar was sponsored by the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and the American organisation "Teachers in the Struggle for Social Responsibility." In accordance with a year-old agreement, 40 teachers from each side gathered in New England to exchange views on ways of overcoming stereotypes in teaching which eventually hampers mutual understanding between people. The proposals worked out during the discussion will be recomended for use in the new curricula of the two countries.

Analyst on Anti-Semitism in U.S., USSR

LD1208163388 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—By TASS political analyst Yevgeniy Babenko:

Antisemitism in the United States is a chronic disease, an antidote against which has not been found up to this time. This is not our maxim, though we are in full agreement with it. This conclusion was drawn by THE NEW YORK TIMES after a thorough analysis of the problem. Security of Jews in the USA remains an open question, concludes the newspaper its study. [sentence as received]

Antisemitic attacks caused by a growth of religious fanaticism and racial intolerance among some part of Americans happen virtually every day. Here are some fresh examples. Los Angeles residents remember well a raid on a local synagogue whose building was seriously damaged. Incidentally, this act of vandalism is not characteristic only of Los Angeles extremists. Similar attacks were made on synagogues in Providence (Rhode Island state) and the township of Mahopac (New York suburb).

In Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania state) criminals who "wished to remain unidentified", shot dead Rabbi Neal Rosenblume in the street. A similar accident took place in the New York subway.

Here is another example: the case of Alan Berg, a radio commentator, who was shot point-blank with a submachine-gun at the doorstep of his own house in Denver (Colorado state). The reason is self-evident: Berg, a Jew, repeatedly spoke in public against a reign of antisemitism and neo-Nazism in his country.

The year 1987 turned to be a "record" one in the number of antisemitic actions in the United States. According to the data of the mass organization Anti-Defamation League, 1,018 various provocative attacks against U.S. Jews were committed that year, or a 12-per-cent rise as compared with the previous year.

What is the reason for citing all these data? The point is that on August 9 the joint group on human rights of the U.S. Congress held hearings on "antisemitism in the USSR", prompted by allegations that the Soviet Union renders support to the notorious association Pamayt, which is evidence of...well-nigh official practice of antisemitism.

It is always foolish to refute nonsense where everything is upside down. So, we shall not do this. We'd like to say only one thing: "Persecutions of Soviet Jews" have always been and evidently remain a convenient propaganda screen for covering disgraceful facts of pogroms which happen here and there in the U.S. "hinterland".

VOA Management Curtails Rights of Staff

LD1308013588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1325 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] New York, 12 Aug (TASS)—Correspondent Vladimir Mostovets reports:

The "Voice of America" station, the chief propaganda mouthpiece of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), is in the habit of hailing the advantages of "democracy," American style, including basic human freedoms and rights. However, at the station itself the rights and freedoms of its staff are better left alone. Journalist Caroline Weaver can verify that in her own experience.

Weaver, who had a provosional contract with the station, wrote an article about the VOA for "COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW" which contained a not very favorable account of the station and, what is most important, cited facts pointing out the use of its broadcasts for subversive activities against foreign states. On learning of the article, the VOA management forbade the journalist from publishing her article before it was censored. As a member of the station's staff, temporary or not, Weaver had to comply with the strict rules which exist here: Everything written by the journalists has to be submitted for inspection by the authorities, whose prerogative it is to decide whether or not it can be published. All articles and reports concerning the U.S. Government and its foreign policies or those which are critical of the station itself should invariably undergo censorship. As to those who dare to speak against it, they can expect a demotion, at best, and dismissal if it comes to the worst. Well aware of that, VOA staff members prefer to keep quiet about the "freedom of speech" at work and do what their bosses ask them to.

Weaver tried to bring a lawsuit against the radio station, saying that such rules are a blatant violation of those very "unlimited rights and freedoms of Americans" about which the Voice of America pontificates to other countries 24 hours a day. However, as the magazine "EDITOR AND PUBLISHER" writes, the district judge in Washington refused the case. He stated that he would not interfere in the internal affairs of the radio station, which had the right to regulate its relations with its workers in accordance with the rules established there.

Judging by everything, Caroline Weaver's article will not appear in the autumn issue of "COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW."

Concern Over 'Vigilance in Libraries' Program

LD1508090388 Moscow TASS in English 0812 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] New York August 15 TASS—TASS correspondent Yuriy Kirilchenko reports:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation should stop the implementation of the programme called "Vigilance in Libraries", said Don Edwards, member of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress.

According to the designs of of those who worked out this programme, employees of American libraries should be FBI informers. They are charged with reporting, first and foremost, on visitors with Russian and East-European names and also on those who resemble in some way a foreigner.

Having studied the list of books ordered in a library, FBI officials hold, one can define almost for sure whether the man is an agent of a foreign intelligence service, the PUBLISHERS WEEKLY writes. If, for instance, a Soviet attache on agriculture asks a book containing information that can have military application, he should be put under increased surveillance, James Geer, FBI assistant director, believes.

This high-ranking FBI official argues that the programme "Vigilance in Libraries" covers only New York and its suburbs. The weekly writes, however, that FBI officers made attempts to recruit agents also in libraries in the U.S. states of California, Utah and Texas. In so doing, they make it clear to people that their refusal to bow to FBI demands will be evaluated as evidence of disloyalty or lack of patriotism, Diane Webster, executive director of the Research Libraries Association, points out.

The story about the hunt for foreign spies that was launched in U.S. libraries could draw someone's smile. However, many U.S. public organisations are downright worried about these actions by the FBI. Arthur Kropp, president of the People for the American Way organisation, called the programme of recruiting FBI informers in libraries as a flagrant violation of the American citizens' rights.

Northeast Asia

SANKEI SHIMBUN Article Criticized

OW1508052688 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] PRAVDA political commentator Ovchinnikov, criticizing an article contributed by former Japanese Ambassador Akira Sono to SANKEI SHIMBUN, writes as follows:

In the article, Mr Sono pleads for the government not to make efforts to improve relations with the Soviet Union, but rather to take a firmer anti-Soviet stand in bilateral relations.

What Mr Sono sees in various peace initiatives taken by the Soviet Union is only what he calls a long-range Soviet strategy directed at promoting confrontation between Japan and the United States.

Mr Sono is acting as if he were not aware of the fact that the Soviet Union enforced a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests for 1 and ½ years in response to the call of Japan's peace movement. The Soviet Union also agreed to abolish intermediate range missiles not only in Europe but also in Asia, in response to the call of Asian nations, particularly Japan. Mr Sono asserts that the weapons in the U.S. front-line bases in the region are not tied to the INF Treaty.

His interpretation that Soviet restructuring is a unilateral concession by the Soviet Union must be disappointing to the Japanese. The Soviet Union, based on new principles of reciprocity, responds willingly to people willing to seek mutually acceptable results.

It is time to recognize that any form of pressure on the Soviet Union in the future is useless.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Burma's Sein Lwin Resigns Posts 12 Aug

LD1208151888 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Rangoon August 12 TASS—Sein Lwin resigned today as chairman of the Central Committee of the Burma Socialist Programme Party and national president, Rangoon Radio has announced.

His resignation followed five days of mass anti-government disturbances that spread to many Burmese towns.

According to preliminary official estimates, at least 98 people died in clashes between demonstrators and security forces. Several hundred protesters were wounded and thousands were arrested.

Sein Lwin headed Burma's party and state leadership since late July last year when he replaced Ne Win and San Yu who had held the posts of chairman of the Party Central Committee and president respectively.

Party Plenary Planned

BK1308111288 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1030 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Rangoon Radio has reported that a special plenary meeting of the ruling Burma Socialist Program Party and an extraordinary session of the People's Assembly will be held on 19 August. The meetings will discuss election of new party and government leaders and allocation of positions following the resignation of U Sein Lwin from two positions on Friday [12 August].

Background to Unrest Viewed

PM1208110588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p5

[O. Skalkin article under the rubric "We Answer the Reader": "The Situation Remains Complex"]

[Text] "There has been a change of leadership in Burma. What are the reasons behind these changes, and what impact are they having on the country?" reader S. Drozdov from Kostroma wrote to PRAVDA.

Notes of alarm are sounding in telegraph reports from Rangoon. Antigovernment demonstrations have been flaring up in the last few days in the Burmese capital and some provincial centers, and people are calling for strikes and other forms of protest. Rangoon itself is under martial law, with soldiers patrolling the streets. Last Thursday they opened fire on demonstrators who had gathered near the Sule Pagoda in the capital's historical center. The arrests of a number of people opposed to the government have been announced.

These stormy and dramatic events show that the changes made at the end of July in the leadership of the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP) and the Burmese Government have done nothing to take the heat out of the feeling which for more than a month has gripped the political life of this country with its 38 million inhabitants. This conclusion has primarily been reached by the Burmese leaders themselves. The new Burmese President Sein Lwin recently stated the reasons for the prolonged crisis loud and clear. Speaking in Rangoon, he talked of the corruption, extravagance, and stagnation which have led to a loss of confidence in the government. The Burmese leader has called for preparations in readiness for economic reform.

Allow me to remind you that Sein Lwin became president and also chairman of the ruling BSPP Central Committee at the end of last month after Ne Win, who had led the country since 1962, resigned from the party post and San Yu quit the post of president. At the same time, Tun Tin became prime minister. New figures were appointed to 8 of the 22 most important government posts. As many of them, primarily Sein Lwin himself, are known for their close ties with the previous leadership, some observers—in Burma but particularly abroad—are inclined to regard the changes in the upper echelons of power as a tactical move.

No one, however, has any doubts that objective factors, mainly the state of the economy, are at the root of the country's current difficulties. Burma has been independent for 40 years. From the very beginning of this path—which is a short path in historical terms—the young state has had to overcome the difficult legacy of its colonial period. One of the first laws under the conditions of independent development was the 1948 law "On Nationalization of the Land," which opened the way to land reform. The nationalization of British-owned steamship companies, which controlled transport operations within the country, and also measures in the sphere of industrial development had great significance for the country's economic life. In the very first years of independence, the "Act on Education for the Masses" was passed, multifaceted measures were implemented to revive the national culture, a program of measures was initiated in the sphere of public health care, and much more. And the results they produced showed that the country had embarked on a path of progressive development.

There is now a great deal of controversy over when and how this process ground to a standstill. The statement by Sein Lwin mentioned above is sufficiently telling evidence of the nature of the destructive phenomena that have destabilized the situation. And although a great deal more could be added to this—such as the nationalist rebel movements in the northern and eastern border regions which have complicated life for the Burmese all these years or the fall in world prices for rice, with the export of which Burmese prosperity is linked—the facts speak for themselves. The country's economy has fallen into decay, and state enterprise expenditure considerably exceeds the value of output. Inflation is growing rapidly. The standard of living is falling. The foreign debt is close to $4 billion. Last year the United Nations ranked Burma among the least developed countries with its per capita income level standing at less than $200 per year.

The majority of domestic policy difficulties clouding Burma at present are linked in one way or another with the economic and social degradation and also with the tough measures by means of which the authorities have tried until recently to control the increase in dissatisfaction. Under these conditions the fact that the BSPP leadership has raised the problem of economic reform and called for a critical look at the ground covered so far and the formulation of realistic plans for socioeconomic development shows just how seriously they themselves regard the present situation and the need to look for a solution.

SRV Foreign Ministry Statement Cited

LD1308130888 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Hanoi August 13 TASS—Vietnam fully supports the statement by the Kampuchean Foreign Ministry in connection with the unceasing military provocations on the part of Thailand against Kampuchea, the newspaper NHAN DAN quoted a spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry as saying in a statement today.

The capture of some heights, located on the territory of Kampuchea, artillery shelling, numerous incursions by Thai aircraft and vessels into Kampuchea's air and sea space, the document says, run counter to the striving of the people of the two countries to live in peace and good-neighborliness.

Vietnam, the statement runs, supporting the just peace-loving position of Kampuchea, demands that Thailand immediately stop military actions that breach the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea. It calls on Thailand to take a constructive approach to the proposals of the Kampuchean side, aimed at turning the border between the two countries into a border of peace and friendship, thus contributing to settling the Kampuchean problem and achiving peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Australians Meet With Demichev, Conclude Visit

PM1508104988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Visit"]

[Text] On 9 August in the Kremlin P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met with a delegation of the Australian Federal Parliament's joint committee on questions of foreign policy, defense, and foreign trade, led by G. Bilney, chairman of the committee.

At the guests' request P.N. Demichev talked about the profound changes taking place in all spheres of life in Soviet society—political, economic, and legislative. It was noted that decisive conditions for the successful progress of restructuring are the working people's maximum involvement in the process of social transformations, the development of democracy and glasnost, and the implementation of the reform of the political system directed at boosting the role of the soviets. The 19th all-union party conference gave new impetus to restructuring.

For the Soviet people, it was noted in the conversation, restructuring is inseparable from the establishment of the new political thinking in international affairs. The significance of the Soviet foreign policy initiatives set out in the Vladivostok speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was stressed. They are directed at forming a comprehensive system of international security both in the Asian-Pacific region and throughout the world.

Questions of strengthening security and developing comprehensive cooperation among the countries in the Asian-Pacific region and ways to deepen Soviet-Australian relations in the political, trade and economic, and other spheres were discussed in detail.

On 9 August the delegation was received at the PRAVDA editorial office.

On the same day the Australian parliamentarians laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall.

In the evening the delegation left the Soviet Union for home. It was seen off at the airfield by S.V. Chervonenko, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission; Ye.M. Samoteykin, USSR ambassador to Australia; C.R. Ashwin, Australian ambassador to the USSR; and other officials.

Envoy to Australia Appointed To Cover Nauru

PM1208111088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Unattributed "Chronicle" report]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Yevgeniy Matveyevich Samoteykin, USSR Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Australia, to be nonresident USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Nauru.

Near East & South Asia

Afghanistan's Najibullah Views Current Situation

Thanks USSR for Assistance

PM1508090888 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 88 First Edition p 6

[Article by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee: "Thank You, Soviet Soldier"]

[Text] The attention of the entire world is now riveted on Afghanistan. The withdrawal from our country of the limited contingent of Soviet troops is being implemented in line with the Geneva agreements and strictly according to schedule.

I will recall that the first units and subunits of Soviet soldiers returned home back in 1980 after fulfilling their international duty with honor. Subsequently, a further six regiments left Afghanistan by decision of the Soviet and Afghan leaderships. This was during the unforgettable days of October 1986. And now we are at the concluding stage...

Columns of Soviet internationalist soldiers are homeward bound through the towns and villages of Afghanistan. All honest Afghans, and even those who quite recently were fighting against the state power, are coming out to thank them. There is a particularly large number of children among those seeing off the Soviet troops. They represent Afghanistan's future, and it is good that these historic days will remain in their memories. From generation to generation the Afghan people will convey gratitude to those who came to our country as friend and defender.

The farther this difficult time recedes into the past the more clearly we will understand the historic significance of the international exploit of the Soviet soldier who together with us has drunk deeply of the full chalice of the war's sufferings and burdens. The Soviet soldiers came to us not to occupy Afghanistan, not to secure political or military advantages. Throughout their sojourn on our land they have taken nothing—they have only given: of their lives, of their health, of the warmth of their hands and hearts. They came in order to assist the progressive forces of the awakened Afghan society defend the borders of the fatherland and uphold the people's sovereign right to follow their own particular path in history.

The Soviet internationalist soldiers are completing with honor their mission on Afghan land. They have helped Afghanistan erect a barrier to outside interference, and they have not allowed it to become a seat of reaction and aggression. Together with the soldiers of our national Armed Forces they have defended the democratic rights and freedoms of the Afghan people, they have given the people the opportunity to secure a viable life. They have saved children, women, and old people from the deadly assaults by mercenary killers nurtured and armed abroad. Thanks to their courage and heroism, Afghan children are acquiring the opportunity to go to school, the peasants—to gather the harvest, the workers and artisans—to labor at the factories and workshops, the Afghan intelligentsia—to develop science, national literature, and art.

We pronounce words of gratitude to all the Soviet specialists and advisers—military included—who by their selfless toil have plowed, sown, and grown our noble field of friendship, sparing neither their efforts nor their lives. Soviet military specialists have constantly been at their combat post, and some of them are still there now. They are fulfilling their international duty with a feeling of high responsibility, they are investing much effort and energy in the enhancement of our Army's combat capability, and they are demonstrating to Afghan soldiers the most graphic example of patriotism and exemplary execution of the soldier's duty.

Our servicemen, commanding officers, and political workers have always been aware of the reliable support of a true friend and comrade-in-arms in training classrooms and on the airfields, on the march and in flight, and in the battlefield.

The people have a saying—a friend in need is a friend indeed. It was when we were in need, when the fate of the April Revolution was being decided, that the hand of a friend, a reliable and sincere friend, was extended to us. Today this friendship is consecrated by blood shed together in the struggle for our country's sovereignty and integrity, in the struggle for life and humanism on Afghan soil.

Soviet officers, soldiers, and military advisers selflessly shared with the fighting men and commanding officers of the Afghan Army their rich knowledge of military matters, trained them in the methods of waging modern warfare and the skill of using sophisticated types of armaments, and passed on the combat traditions of a people's army. Today, on the eve of the joint Soviet-Afghan space flight, we remember with gratitude the mentors of the future pilot-cosmonauts of the Republic of Afghanistan—Soviet officers.

The significance of the experience of combat collaboration between Afghan and Soviet servicemen acquired over the years of these grave trials is inestimable. Participation in joint operations to cut short the extremists' aggression and brigandage gave the officers and men of our Armed Forces the necessary combat skills, and tempered our cadres.

The staunchness and courage of the servicemen of the two fraternal peoples were tempered in the crucible of combat operations to stop the extremists' acts of aggression and brigandage. More than 70 Soviet servicemen won the lofty title of Hero of the Soviet Union on the battlefields of the undeclared war. Among those whose names will be inscribed in gold letters in the book of combat fraternity and collaboration are Aleksandr Koryavin, Aleksandr Mironenko, Nikolay Afinogenov, Nikolay Chepik, and Vyacheslav Gaynutdinov.

We pay tribute to the mothers and fathers who raised such heroes and sent them off to accomplish their feat. May the hearts of those who await their sons be reassured: The hour is near when the last subunits of internationalist servicemen will return home.

The Afghan people bow their heads before the bright memory of the Soviet servicemen who fell on our soil.

Thanks to our Soviet friends' assistance the necessary balance was achieved on Afghan soil between the defenders of the Republic and the forces of aggression. We gained the time to rectify the errors of the past and strengthen the Armed Forces, and were able to take the path of national reconciliation and embark on the implementation of that peace-loving policy.

The Republic's national Army is now capable autonomously of defending the motherland's freedom and independence and upholding the policy of national reconciliation and progressive transformations. However, in order to ensure full, reliable security we still have to resolve many complex tasks in the sphere of military building.

The Soviet internationalist fighters have taught the Afghan soldiers not only how to fight, but how to build. The limited contingent of Soviet troops has given the civilian population enormous selfless assistance in supplying essential goods and medical services and in economic and cultural development. Here are just a few figures.

In the last 3 years alone the internationalist servicemen repaired, restored, or built from scratch 84 schools, high schools, and colleges, 25 hospitals, 26 kindergartens, 326 apartment blocks, 35 mosques, and 53 bridges; sank 41 boreholes; built 48 wells; dug and restored more than 117 km of irrigation ditches and canals; supplied electricity to hundreds of villages; took part in the construction and restoration of damaged enterprises; and asphalted the streets of cities destroyed by the gangs, in Qandahar, for instance.

The departing Soviet troops are leaving the Afghan Army with 51 well appointed military camps, many of which will be used for social purposes.

Risking their lives, the Soviet servicemen helped people: They gave bread to the hungry, clothes to the unclad, medicines to the sick. In 1987 alone Soviet military physicians gave medical assistance to 102,000 citizens of our country. Last year goods and products worth a total of R260 million were distributed to the population.

The policy of ending the fratricidal war in Afghanistan being pursued by the PDPA and the state power with the broad support of the people has created important internal prerequisites for the Soviet internationalist soldiers' return home. The way home has been opened up for them by the Geneva accords, which have established a basis in international law for the cessation of outside interference in Afghanistan's affairs. Geneva signified not only the recognition by all sides of the impossibility of a military solution of the Afghan problem but was also an example of the rational approach to unlocking a most acute regional conflict on the basis of the new political thinking.

Having demonstrated a firm will and assumed a principled position at the Geneva talks, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are unswervingly fulfilling their international obligations. The schedule for the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops is being precisely fulfilled. By today, 50 percent of the servicemen have returned to the Soviet Union.

The strict, sincere, and precise implementation of the Geneva agreements is the essential condition for the restoration of peace on Afghan soil, the guarantee of Afghanistan's existence as a free, independent, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned state. One other thing is also important. The settlement of the external aspects of the Afghan problem will promote the advancement of the national reconciliation process in our country on the principles of coalition rule and multi-party democracy. All interested forces must participate in the implementation of this course, and we are ready for this.

However, at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR are consistently implementing the Geneva accords, Pakistan—to our deep regret—is evading the fulfillment of the agreements it has signed. Together with our Soviet friends we are following this process attentively and we will react accordingly to the development of the situation. We hope that the rational approach to a settlement around Afghanistan will prevail within the leadership of Pakistan in the very near future.

The road to peace is difficult and long. Many obstacles and complexities await us. Extremists, hostilely inclined and irreconcilable, who are incited, armed, and financed from Pakistan, are still continuing the fratricidal war. However, we are fully assured that our Armed Forces are capable of bringing to a victorious conclusion their struggle to secure peace and security for the people of Afghanistan, of negotiating the long and difficult path to achieve this humane goal.

Condemns Pakistan on Accords

LD1408185388 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Tomorrow is a crucial date in the process of implementing the Geneva agreements: The first stage of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet troop contingent is being completed. By 15 August, half of all Soviet servicemen will have returned home. Mikhail Leshchinskiy, our correspondent in Kabul, has interviewed Afghan President Najibullah:

[Begin recording] [Leshchinskiy] Your high appraisal of the Geneva accords is known. Has it not changed during the course of events now taking place in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah, speaking in Dari with superimposed Russian translation] We see the main condition for a victory of the national reconciliation course as being the strict observance of the Geneva accords. The path taken by all the signatories to the agreements on teaching mutual understanding was a lengthy and complex one. Vivid, and at times dramatic, pages have been added to the history of diplomacy.

I cannot fail to recall with gratitude the Soviet Union's consistent line in the process of settlement and Comrade Gorbachev's enormous personal efforts. The UN Organization, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, and Mr Cordovez have shown deep interest in a favorable outcome of the talks.

However, the path between documents being signed and implemented has reefs and underwater currents all its own. The Geneva accords, which objectively work for the national reconciliation process, have been resolutely rejected by the opposition leadership, and this has put their friends from Islamabad in a contradictory position. That is why, instead of observing the accords undeviatingly, Pakistan has embarked on a path of ignoring them.

In the event of Pakistan's continuing to violate the Geneva agreements, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will without fail determine the essential action that was announced on our states' behalf in the joint Soviet-Afghan statement of 7 August this year.

We call on the world community to defend the roots of common sense and hope born from the Geneva agreements. We are ready to accept any benevolent assistance in the cause of internal political settlement, but crude diktat, and all the more military interference, in the solving of this issue are inadmissible. [end recording]

The interview given by President Najibullah to Soviet television we will broadcast in full tomorrow after the "Vremya" program.

Gromov News Conference on Troop Withdrawal

LD1408200888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1750 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, 14 Aug (TASS)—Fifty percent of the Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan by 14 August, in accordance with the Geneva accords. Right now there is not a single Soviet soldier in 25 of the 31 provinces of Afghanistan. The units remaining in six provinces will be withdrawn by 15 February 1989, as envisaged by the Geneva accords. This was reported by Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, commander of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

"The troop withdrawal," he said at a news conference that was held in Kabul today, "is being monitored by UN observers who have been offered every facility for them to normally fulfill their functions. The UN representatives have the opportunity to see for themselves that from the moment of the signing of the Geneva accords, Soviet fighting men have not been taking part in military operations."

"The main activity of our troops," continued the general, "during this period has consisted of, in cooperation with the Afghan Armed Forces, ensuring the protection of large towns from encroachment by the opposition; escorting convoys carrying various types of needed freight; and in fulfilling the obligations concerning gratuitous aid, as well as escorting convoys of Soviet troops returning to their homeland.

"Much attention is being paid to helping the local population," the commander stressed. "Eighty-four schools, 26 hospitals, and 326 houses have been built by Soviet units and subunits. They have dug or restored 117 km of irrigation canals, built 22 km of electricity transmission lines, and repaired hundreds of bridges. This year alone residents in various areas of Afghanistan have been given free assistance worth a total of R260 million. In the course of the troop withdrawal, more than 3,000 projects of various types have been handed over to the Afghan side, including hospitals, hotels, workshops, warehouses, and Army camps. The total cost of these projects amounts to almost R180 million." Gromov rejected as completely groundless the rumors that the Soviet troops are laying mines in the areas they are leaving, and that they are not taking measures to eliminate the existing mine fields.

Having stressed that the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan are strictly observing the Geneva accords, the commander cited examples of the systematic violation of these documents on the part of Pakistan. He also pointed out that from 15 May to 15 July this year the opposition launched almost 3,000 armed attacks and carried out 96 acts of terrorism and sabotage, mainly targeted at the civilian population.

Replying to journalists' questions, the Soviet general highly appraised the Afghan forces' battle readiness. Describing the situation in the country as complicated, he at the same time expressed confidence in the success of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. This is being facilitated by the expanding social base of people's power, the successful development of the national reconciliation process, and the growing might of the Republic's Armed Forces.

A number of questions concerned the situation in the northern Afghan province of Konduz, which Soviet troops recently left. "The withdrawal of Soviet subunits from Konduz," said Gromov, "was planned in advance, and we kept on schedule. After the departure of Soviet fighting men, the situation in the province became more acute." As some of the mass media abroad have reported, Konduz itself and its environs are presently controlled by the rebels, the commander noted. We possess approximately the same information. Some representatives of the provincial leadership have shown goodwill, attracted by the slogans of national reconciliation, but at the same time they have also shown a sense of honor, which was not the case with the opposition. The events in this province are not in the interests of the people, because blood is being shed there.

I have no doubt, Gromov emphasized, that a normal situation will be restored in Konduz in the very near future. To achieve this, the Afghan leadership is adopting military, political, and economic measures. The events in Konduz will be a lesson for the opposition, the commander said. He pointed out that units of the limited contingent of Soviet troops are not and will not be taking part in combat operations in Konduz Province.

Replying to individual questions, the Soviet general resolutely rejected fabrications that certain Soviet units would remain in the country even after 15 February 1989, and that after that date Soviet aircraft would launch strikes against the rebels from airfields on Soviet territory.

Further on News Conference

LD1508123788 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1034 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Kabul, 15 Aug (TASS)—A news conference has been held in Kabul for local and foreign journalists in connection with the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. It was organized by Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, commander of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

"I would like to note," said Lt Gen B.V. Gromov, "that there is no foundation to the rumor that Soviet troops are allegedly mining the areas they are leaving and that they are taking no measures to eliminate minefields along communication lines, watchposts, and permanent stationing points, which represent a threat to the civilian population and returning refugees. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops, all minefields are either being destroyed or handed over to the Afghan side at its request. There are appropriate documents concerning this and UN observers are being informed. We can responsibly state that there are no minefields in the way of Afghan refugees returning home.

"The celebrations connected with seeing off the internationalist servicemen are proof of the fact that the Afghan people regard the presence of Soviet troops as a factor promoting the stabilization of the political situation in the country and that they have acted in the interests of the national reconciliation policy, of establishing a stable peace on Afghan soil, and of preserving it as a sovereign and nonaligned state. This is the main political result of our stay here. At the same time, it is also the highest reward for the internationalist servicemen. [passage omitted]

"In blatant disregard of the Geneva accords, the headquarters of the antigovernment organizations continues to function and direct combat operations in Afghanistan from Pakistani territory, and a 'transition government' has been set up there. The rebels continue to receive deliveries of weapons and ammunition in quantities that have increased appreciably of late. Moreover, weapons are being transferred quite openly to storehouses near the Afghan border in Teri-Mangal, Miramshakh, and the Shinkay area. Hit men from the rebel groups are still being trained in centers of Pakistani territory, and the infiltration of armed formations and foreign instructors into Afghanistan continues." [passage omitted]

Military Pullout From Afghanistan Continues

Unit Sees 'Fierce' Fighting

LD1208211988 Moscow TASS in English 2022 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Kushka, August 12 TASS—Today another guards motorized unit from the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan crossed the state border of the USSR en route home. As was the case with previous Soviet units, it returned home in strict compliance with the Geneva accords on settling the Afghanistan conflict.

Residents of Kushka and nearby areas came with flowers to a meeting place not far from the Pogranichnik state farm. Long tables were laden with various delicacies for the soldiers.

The rally was a short one but the road to it was long and difficult. Soviet troops showed staunchness, bravery and heroism. Before their departure from Qandahar, forces of armed opposition inflicted a powerful missile strike on that area. The alerted unit spent the first day of its march under the conditions of active combat operations started by terrorists. Fighting was especially fierce in the areas of Daman and Band-e Arghandab.

On the eve of its return to the USSR, the motorized unit was awarded the commemorative banner of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Order of the Red Banner of the Afghan Republic. The same order was conferred on 50 commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the unit, including Colonel Nikolay Grishin, unit commander. "'Soldiers go, but the Soviet friend of Afghanistan's northern border remains', told us [as received] Afghan citizens," said Nikolay Grishin. "Leaving the friendly country, we handed over to the population buildings, a part of materiel and weapons for strengthening Afghanistan's defences. Units of the Afghan Army accompanied our column, ensuring its safety. Their assistance was especially handy at the dangerous Robat-e Mirza Pass. It is bitter to say that there were casualties en route home."

Unit Welcomed at Kushka

PM1208104388 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 88 First Edition p 1

[Dispatch by special correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik: "Internationalist Soldiers Are Returning Home to the Motherland"]

[Excerpt] Shindand-Herat-Kushka, 11 Aug—Our convoy was approaching a gently sloping elevation with a border marker on it. Beyond it lay our native land. The journey there had been long and hard. Behind the motorized riflemen and airborne troops lay 750 blazing kilometers through the hot sand dunes of the Rigestan Desert, through the spurs of the Sefid Koh Pass, through dust storms raised by the hot Afghan wind. A final few hundred meters remained separating the banks of the Kushka border river. And here finally were the minutes of celebration: The leading armored transport vehicles, flying the unit's combat banners and the PDPA Central Committee memorial banner presented in Qandahar to the personnel for their worthy fulfillment of their international duty, cross the USSR's state border. The band plays a welcoming march. Movie cameras whir, flashbulbs flash—dozens of foreign correspondents representing the foreign mass media had come to Kushka with Soviet journalists to greet the convoy of motorized riflemen and airborne troops.

I asked Nizuma, a correspondent for the Japanese newspaper ASAHI, what he thinks of the rumors spread in the West claiming that simultaneous with the withdrawal, Soviet forces are preparing for massive combat operations, are mining roads, and are setting mine traps designed to destroy the civilian population:

"I was present at the withdrawal of the first Soviet units from Afghanistan in 1986," Nidzuma replied. "And I am now particularly convinced that the Soviet troops are leaving the country in full accordance with the Geneva accords. As for mines, I have seen Soviet sappers clearing mines from villages and roads. I have observed Afghans seeing off Soviet soldiers on their way home with warmth and cordiality. I am used to believing obvious facts, not fabrications." [passage omitted]

Qandahar Withdrawal Described

PM1508101788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition pp 1, 6

[Article by V. Okulov and P. Studenikin: "Scorched by Qandahar; PRAVDA Special Correspondents Report From Afghanistan"]

[Text] Shindand, 9 Aug—We made our way along this path with the soldiers. One of us took his place on an armored vehicle of a landing and assault subunit in which he had been back in 1980. The other went to the motorized riflemen: It happened that, in contrast to the "assault forces," they did not have the attention of journalists although the war had affected them no less than the others. In a word, the command "dispersed" us—because of the threat of mine explosions. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Qandahar would be difficult.

Qandahar. We flew here before daybreak. The airport on the "edge" of the Registan desert looked lifeless. Afghan soldiers stood next to our armored carriers (the Soviet troops' base had virtually been handed over to the Afghan Army Corps). Our rear military personnel had been flying out of Qandahar day after day. Only the combat subunits remained—they had to leave for the border along a route that skirted Afghanistan in a semicircle from the south—from Qandahar—to the northwest through Shindand.

A familiar room in the hotel block. Familiar friends—we had met in Moscow and Kabul—Lieutenant Colonel A. Chesakov and his comrades. One of them—Lieutenant Colonel A. Maslennikov—would have to lead the rearguard. It had a particular job to do: The rebels were trying to attack the tail of the column.

The night turned out to be an alarming one. By the way, the nights are always like that in Qandahar. Explosions rumbled through the air: Bandits fired rockets [eresov] and more than 20 such rockets struck near the helicopter pad. The day before the guard party had sustained losses in the city.

We are discussing all this news during a midnight conversation to the accompaniment of explosions, and to the crash of retaliatory artillery strikes.

In the years of Afghan events Qandahar always occupied a particular position—this is a real trouble spot. Throughout the Afghan state's history Qandahar, as the original capital, tried to weaken the "pressure" exerted by the central government in Kabul. The present confrontation between the detachments of "irreconcilable elements" and the provincial authority, or among themselves is not always political in nature: Often it is fighting for the right to govern the territory, and to collect a tribute from the population.

The slogans advanced by the extremists to thwart the authorities' desire for a compromise is only a cover for their power-hungry ambitions. The defense of Islam? After the twists and turns of the first revolutionary years the state is the staunch defender of religion. Is it a struggle against newcomers—"infidels" who came to the defense of the new Kabul regime? This slogan has collapsed, too: In a matter of days there would be no Soviets left in south Afghanistan.

"Your departure from Qandahar at the first stage of implementing the Geneva agreements is well timed," many Afghans in Kabul and Qandahar said to us. This invalidates the Peshawar gangleaders' propaganda trump cards, and once more exposes their true aims.

The situation in Qandahar, which has always been complicated, remains contradictory even now. According to information from competent Afghan organs, there are 389 gangs in the province—more than 17,000 men. Less than 200 of them are active—numbering 11,000 men. As everywhere in Afghanistan, when the implementation of the Geneva accords began, the process of polarization of forces increased in the opposition camp, and disagreements were exacerbated to the point of vicious fighting. Many armed groups stopped the struggle against the government and Soviet troops, but instead fought their "unbridled brothers-in-arms." These tendencies also exist in Qandahar. Detachments of the "National Islamic Front of Afghanistan," "The National Salvation Front," and "The Movement of the Islamic Revolution" marked time.

Meanwhile, the gang formations of the two "Islamic Parties of Afghanistan" received the order from their gangleaders G.. Hikmatyar and M. Yunis Khalis in Peshawar to step up combat operations and to struggle to seize power. The Peshawar extremists announced their intention to plant their "transitional government" in Qandahar, and they are nurturing plans for the division of Afghanistan.

We are discussing the situation with Colonel Nisar, leader of one of the provincial subunits of the Ministry of State Security. A strong man, as if hewn from stone, he does not conceal the difficulties. On the contrary, he wants to reveal to us all the factors which are complicating the situation in Qandahar:

"'The irreconcilable opposition' is assembling additional forces here, 400 men arrived from Oruzgan, 200 from Helmand. They are waiting for additional detachments from the Pakistani bases to arrive. "Milan" antitank guided missile systems have arrived for arming the rebels. According to our data more than 20 advisors—from the United States, the PRC, the FRG, Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia—are active in the gangs close to Qandahar. About 300 terrorists went to the province from behind the border, from Quetta. Their task was to attempt to seize Soviet soldiers and officers and carry off people loyal to the authorities. Terrorist acts were also planned against UN observers who had come to ascertain the withdrawal of Soviet subunits. There are signs that terrorists have at their disposal Soviet and Afghan military uniforms.

"The rebels stepped up agitation among the population and units of the Armed Forces. It cannot be denied that sometimes it succeeds. There are instances of defections to the enemy side, and instances have been noted of deals with the bandits. A sector of the clergy is against national reconciliation, seeing the authorities' efforts to reach an agreement in the sake of peace merely as a political game.

"All this complicates the situation," Colonel Nisar concludes. "The evacuation from Qandahar of officials from the Indian and Pakistani consulates general testifies to its exacerbation. A security officer in the Pakistani delegation was gravely wounded in the rebels' shelling of the city. The refugees' situation is the same as before: The Pakistanis are detaining them in the camps, and are using them to infiltrate secret agents.

"In a word," our interlocutor sums up, "difficult days lie ahead. But I believe that we will hold out. There are prerequisites for this. The Soviet forces largely created them, so we assess your departure as an expression of confidence in our strength. But the 'irreconcilable elements" will try to vent their spite on you.... "

Assault Forces. The last night in Qandahar, on the Afghan land's southern border. What will it be like? It is imprinted on my memory: I dreamed about it back in 1980 when I was lying in wait on the caravan path in border territory with the landing and assault battalion. And so this night arrived, burning you with the hot breath of the desert night. The moon came up. Almost no one is asleep in the armored vehicle. Tomorrow we would be going through the city where fighting could flare up on the outskirts.

A quiet conversation started up in our APC [armored personnel carrier]. Captain Nikolay Blaznin, chief of staff of the assault battalion, and I recalled the "Afghan"-veterans—Colonel A. Plokhikh, one of the first to be awarded the Order of Lenin. Battalion Commander Leonid Khabarov—Salang first commandant who was the pride of the assault forces. Igor Shchapin, the spirited commander of the reconnaissance platoon who was twice presented for the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. I saw him before leaving for Afghanistan, and now I am telling Nikolay about their rather unfortunate post-Afghanistan fate.

We fell asleep late. And, it seemed, we were immediately awoken by a crash—the dushmans were pounding the aerodrome and garrison with rocket projectiles....

Motorized Riflemen. The deafening whistle of missiles resounded in the sky over the motorized riflemen headquarter buildings which surrounded the barracks area and the aerodrome. I was awoken by muffled explosions. Flashes of fire nearby leaped up beyond the camouflage net surrounding the yard. Voices of alarm could be heard at the battalion command post. Lieutenant Colonel A. Ivanov, battalion commander of the motorized riflemen, made the APC duty personnel take cover in a shelter. In a far corner of the aerodrome a fiery whirlwind rose skyward: The rocket projectile had hit an Afghan aircraft. Our heavy mortars answered with a roar. The points from where the bandits were pounding us were crushed. Before dawn a calm descended over the Qandahar plain.

A fine day is breaking. Sappers with powerful mine clearing devices are the first to leave the camp: Their task is to clear the road of mines....

Assault Forces. Combat vehicles are entering the city, they are taking up poisition in guard detachments and block formation ready to protect the convoys from fire, the first to begin the march through Qandahar. There are few people in the streets, and this increases concern: Will there really be fighting ahead?

"Check your weapons! Put on your helmets and bulletproof vests!"

It is difficult to recognize the city even compared with last fall—there are more ruins. Anyone who has served in Qandahar will never forget "Black Square" on the western edge where the "green zone" and the ruined mud walls go right up to the road: There is no better place for the dushmans to strike at point-blank range. He will not forget the points—"petroleum oils and lubricants," the "elevator", the "Nagahan turning".... In just the last 2 days the battalion lost three men here, yesterday six were wounded.

...I did not hear the first shots, I saw soldiers lying on the roadside under vehicles burnt out long ago, intensive fire was under way. The sound of shells exploding was deafening—it was the long-range artillery covering us. We rush past the farm elevator on the outskirts, and Lieutenant Colonel V. Dunayev, the assault forces commander, set up the command post in a former restaurant on the shore of the Arghandab River. The "green zone" comes right up to the roadway, explosions flash over its expanses. Heavy machineguns are firing from our command post's roof, nearby guns are firing behind the wall.... The flank guard and block formations crushed the rebels' weapon positions, clearing the way for the convoys.

Radio communications become more intense. It is difficult for the uninitiated to work out what is going on in the flow of reports and commands but they help to get the feel of the situation:

"Zero-One! Speed up the convoy's progress. Now they're going to fire from "Black Square"....

"The dushmans are conducting a strong mortar barrage. A vehicle is on fire.... "

"Now they can strike from the direction of Kubaya [name as published]. They will try to split the convoy...."

...The first wounded man arrived at the battalion command post: Private Grigoriy Sukhanov was blown up by a mine. With the aid of his assistants Senior Lieutenant Nikolay Baranovskiy, the battalion doctor, desperately fights for Grishin's life.... I saw Lt Col Dunayev grit his teeth: It is awful to lose guys, it is indescribably awful—especially on the way home!

Machineguns were still firing from the command post roof, and guns were blasting away behind the wall. We go onto the roof: There is firing in the city itself, and the vehicles which have been knocked out of action, are marked out by black plumes of smoke.

Casualties were brought in once again: Private Shavkat Aripov and Pavel Tupitsyn. Sergeant Maksim Polyakov tells the story: "We moved into block formation. People left the IFV's [infantry fighting vehicles]. Except for the gunner and driver—as agreed. And when the IFV started to take up its position—there was an explosion: Pasha Tupitsin was thrown from the turret, and the driver managed to get out of the hatch—the vehicle caught fire and exploded. The guys are lucky to be alive.... "

Several vehicles were burned along with personal belongings—it is a sin, of course, to regret the loss of property. But some people's documents and orders were lost in the fire: Senior Lieutenant V. Tizin's Order of the Red Star, Senior Warrant Officer A. Stepanov's Order of the Red Star and medal "For Combat Merit."

At first the vehicles go out of the city in small groups, from where the sound of shots can still be heard. Without stopping, they rush past our command post and disappear in the "green zone" which bursts with black explosions. In certain places the reeds burn. We did not seize the opportunity, and probably we could not have seized it when the dushmans' mortar batteries were crushed. We saw with relief the convoys starting to leave in an organized fashion.

Motorized Riflemen. The battalion had entered the city streets. Firing could be heard from "Black Square." I am sitting in my bulletproof vest and helmet on an armored vehicle where the officer in charge is Lieutenant V. Kosintsev. The APC's are assembling like runners before the start and are passing "Black Square" at maximum speed.

"Take cover on the left!" the lieutenant shouts. "A warning shot toward the ruins!...

True, this picture can only be seen in Qandahar. We had just gone past numerous stalls, and waved in response to the little boys squatting under the plane trees, and then suddenly its fighting, shooting, and over the thickets nearby—black columns of smoke from the explosions. It is as if we are covering, like a chain of armor, a perfectly peaceful procession: An elderly townsman is moving along the roadside surrounded by women, they are leading children. As if it has not occurred to them, so accustomed as they are to everything in their city on the front, that they are in the epicenter of the struggle. Our APC brakes in an open space, and lets an oncoming Afghan vehicle rush by: Two soldiers support a wounded captain—they rush through the city to the hospital.

The convoy leaves "Black Square," and gathers speed on a slope where the shells of burnt out trucks shield the roadway from the "green zone" as if with a metal barrier along the roadway.

"Take cover on the right!" the lieutenant commands.

Another 10 minutes, and the first motorized riflemen vehicles leave the city. The smashed up highway is replaced by a bumpy track which avoids the danger areas. We catch a glimpse of a plywood board on the roadside in the clouds of thick dust: "Do not drive off the track!"

Our faces are burning with the heat: The convoys are entering the Rigestan Desert....

UN Border Observer Comments

LD1208165888 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Jeyretan August 12 TASS—By TASS correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy:

Convoys of vehicles passed today the "Friendship" Bridge linking the Afghan town of Jeyretan with the city of Termez on Soviet territory as the first stage of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan is drawing to an end.

A group of U.N. observers headed by Gen. Rauli Helminen of Finland manned an observation post near the crossing point.

The general told TASS that he had arrived in Jeyretan for a working visit connected with the conclusion of the first stage in the Soviet troop withdrawal.

"The withdrawal is being carried out strictly in accordance with the time-table," Helminen said. "I have no doubts that it will be completed in time, and more than 50,000 Soviet officers and men, may be even more, will leave Afghan territory."

He disclosed pleasant news. The Pakistani Government finally cleared on Thursday the establishment of two U.N. observation posts in Peshawar and Quetta.

"I think this is a very important step," Helminen pointed out, "as the permission means that the system of U.N. monitoring over the movement of people and cargo and the returning refugees on Pakistani territory will begin operation."

Asked by the TASS correspondent whether this measure was too late to come by, the general diplomatically replied that such steps were never late because hostilities in Afghanistan continued.

Besides, he said, the very presence of U.N. representatives in flash points was an important restraining factor.

Gen. Helminen denied opposition claims, disseminated by the Western press, that Soviet instructors and advisers remained in Nangarhar Province and, specifically in Jalalabad.

First Stage of Withdrawal Ends

LD1408090188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The first stage of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan ends today. In accordance with the Geneva accords on a settlement of the Afghanistan situation, half of the Soviet contingent will have returned to the motherland by 15 August. There is already not a single Soviet soldier presently in the eastern, northeastern, and southeastern provinces of the Republic.

The withdrawal of the forces is being verified [kontrolirovat] by a group of UN observers. They are establishing that the Soviet military units are leaving Afghanistan in strict keeping with the schedule. According to the Geneva accords, the process of the withdrawal of the whole contingent of Soviet forces, which began on 15 May, is due to be completed in 9 months.

TV Program Discusses Afghan Situation

LD1408194088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Aug 88

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Stanislav Kondrashov, with journalist Mikhail Leshchinskiy]

[Text] [Kondrashov] Three months ago, on 15 May, the final chapter opened in our nearly 9-year-long military involvement in Afghan events. This chapter is officially called the withdrawal of Soviet troops in accordance with the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. But for the soldiers, for the national consciousness, it is the end of a war which can in no way be regarded as popular.

A scene of leave taking on Afghan soil. The first scenes of the joyful return home, when all dangers are behind: This was widely publicized in mid-May. And now, 3 months have passed, and half of the Soviet contingent has already left Afghanistan, strictly following the Geneva timetable. I remind you that the troops must be fully withdrawn by 15 February. Six months remain. A week ago Comrade Shevardnadze, who was in Kabul on a working visit, said: We have no doubt that the withdrawal of the troops will be completed by the intended time.

In the last few days our units have left the furnace [peklo] of Qandahar, the second biggest Afghan town, a place of the fiercest fighting, and took the road to the frontier at Kushka. On Thursday you saw a report on "Vremya" from there by Mikhail Leshchinskiy. He truly is a veteran Afghan hand among the journalists, and now, along with his colleagues, he is reporting on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops.

Hello, Mikhail Borisovich.

[Leshchinskiy] Good afternoon, Stanislav Nikolayevich. Glad to meet you on the air.

[Kondrashov] We can see you standing in front of a map. Please show us on the map where the Soviet units have been evacuated from. And what comes next, if it is not a secret, and...

[Leshchinskiy, interrupting] Stanislav Nikolayevich, you know it is not by chance that I am standing by a map. I found out about your first question, and decided that it would be clearer if I took a map.

So, it is easier to say where Soviet troops still remain, inasmuch as there are none left in 26 provinces of Afghanistan out of 32. So, actually today and tomorrow the last sections of the units included in the half of the troops that had to be withdrawn by 15 August will cross the border in the areas of Termez and Kushka. So, our units remain along the road that leads from Termez via Hayraton to Kabul—you can see the shaded part here. And units have been left again along the road that goes from Kushka via Towraghoudi to Herat and Shindand.

Well, I think it is clear from this deployment what tasks our units and sections are faced with. In the first place, it is to guard these most important lines of communication along which passes a huge flow of economic freight of the most varied kinds, from our country and also from other countries of the world to the center of Afghanistan and to the west of the country. And the second task of these same units: when, so to speak, the second stage of our troops' return home starts this winter, these same units will make sure they are able to move safely, and then will leave themselves.

[Kondrashov] We are saying, and you have just said that half of the troops have been withdrawn. But here is a question. Half of what number? How many people, so to speak, are there in that half? Certain Western sources mention the figure 50,000 as being half. Well what do you say about that?

[Leshchinskiy] I must say that, generally speaking, that figure is close to the truth. Once again, I cannot confirm it absolutely, since that is a purely military matter, but I think that that is not far from the mark; 50,000 or just over 50,000 people have already left and approximately the same number still remain.

[Kondrashov] I see. Thank you. Here is another question. In what sort of atmosphere is the withdrawal taking place? Are there any losses? What is the picture as regards losses during these past 3 months?

[Leshcinskiy] Well, I have to tell you that the troop withdrawal is taking place in a rather complex military and political situation, which is in general typical just now of Afghanistan, particularly during these 3 months during which the Geneva agreements have been carried out. But I think that it is of fundamental importance that during this major, very major military operation—which in effect is what the return home of our troops amounts to—there have been neither losses nor injuries to the columns along the roads taken by our troops. There has not been a single case where the armed opposition and its detachments have succeeded in getting through to these routes and striking directly against our columns. Although during this period there have, of course, been mass armed sorties by the opposition, they have not managed to get past our covering detachments which have been positioned both far out and close in at points of access to these roads. They have not gotten past our guard posts.

[Kondrashov] That is good news then.

[Leshchinskiy] Not at any point. Not once. But there have been losses and injuries incurred by these covering detachments, at these positions. But I think that is only natural, although it is terribly, terribly regrettable.

[Kondrashov] Clearly. And finally Mikhail Borisovich, just one last question. Can you describe the situation in Kabul for us please; in particular what is the mood of our remaining diplomatic and other civilian personnel?

[Leshchinskiy] Well, I think that to a certain extent your question is connected with the fact that it has emerged that some Western diplomats have left Kabul.

[Kondrashov] Yes.

[Leshchinskiy] I think that is what you had in mind. Well, what can I say? Let's be frank, the situation in Kabul is complex. And the past month, July, has been especially difficult. Kabul has been hit by rockets almost every day and these have been massive attacks. Often these projectiles have fallen in densely populated areas. Furthermore, competent sources reveal that during the months since our troops started to withdraw, something like 15 new armed units and detachments belonging to the opposition have arrived in the Kabul area from Pakistan. The overall size of this Kabul opposition group has now increased by over 1,000 people.

As for the mood—not only of diplomats of course, our advisers are working here, too, not to mention us journalists—I would not say that there have been any changes. People are working calmly. The only thing is that the families of diplomats and all Soviet people here have gone home—that is, the women and children. I think that can perfectly well be explained as not putting their lives at risk at all.

[Kondrashov] Thank you, Mikhail Borisovich. All the best to you.

Afghan Army Chief of Staff Views Withdrawal

PM1508100788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Colonel General Shahnawaz Tani, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chief of the Afghan Army General Staff, by Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik: "Army Defending the Republic. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Questions Answered by Colonel General Shahnawaz Tani, Candidate Member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Chief of the Afghan Army General Staff"; date and place not given]

[Text] [Oliynik] Comrade Colonel General, the first phase of the withdrawal of units of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan ends, as envisaged, on 15 August, and as a result 50 percent of personnel are returning home. How is this event being assessed in your country and the Afghan Army?

[Tani] All strata of Afghan society and our Army's servicemen see the Soviet troop withdrawal as a political act of historic importance reflecting the concern of the Soviet and Afghan leadership and of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Afghan President Najibullah personally to establish peace on Afghan soil. It is the fulfillment of our people's will and aspirations to settle the situation in and around Afghanistan peacefully in accordance with the PDPA's course of national reconciliation.

I will make no secret of the fact that immediately after the signing of the Geneva accords and particularly after their provisions relating to the withdrawal of Soviet units began to be implemented, a considerable proportion of leftist party members—including in the Army—were dispirited, and there was even talk that the Soviet Union had allegedly changed its principles. However, life convinces us that our motherland's destiny should be decided by the Afghan people themselves; nobody will do it for them. That is why the Soviet and Afghan sides are carrying out in full the obligations they shouldered under the Geneva accords—obligations which accord not just with the interests of the Afghan and Soviet peoples but with the interests of all the region's peoples and of the world community as a whole.

[Oliynik] It is well known that there are no longer any Soviet troops in 25 of Afghanistan's 31 provinces. How is the military-political situation there shaping up?

[Tani] The situation there, above all in the provinces of Badakhshan, Konarha, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Qandahar, and Helmand, recently evacuated by Soviet troops, remains tense and is typified by the further exacerbation of the political and armed struggle between the people's power and opposition forces. And that, in my view, is natural. The withdrawal of Soviet garrisons from these areas has clearly separated those who are really striving to end the war on the basis of national reconciliation from those who want to prolong the bloodshed. This applies above all to the leaders of the "Peshawar seven," who do not recognize the Geneva accords and are striving to drench the very idea of reconciliation in blood. They are still attempting to seize power, particularly in areas evacuated by Soviet troops.

Jalalabad—the center of Nangarhar Province—is a typical example. As is well known, Soviet troops were withdrawn from there back on 15 May. The leaders of the "seven" set a date for the city's capture on three occasions, but their plans came to naught—Afghan Army and people's militia units supported by tribal formations routed insurgent detachments far from the approaches to the city and seized dozens of dumps of arms and munitions brought in from Pakistan. I should stress that the peaceful population is playing a more and more active role in repulsing these raids and averting acts of terrorism. Such instances have been recorded in Jalalabad, Qalat, and Lowgar Province.

[Oliynik] Currently Western radio voices, with the counterrevolution's support, have been talking about the seizure by the insurgents of Konduz—an administrative center in the province of the same name in the north of the country, evacuated by Soviet troops 6 August. To what extent does that match the reality?

[Tani] I can say quite definitely that this is another provocation. Although the situation there is indeed exceedingly acute. Immediately following the Soviet garrison's departure from Konduz, the province center and district and settlement centers came under a ferocious rocket and mortar bombardment. Anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet propaganda increased markedly. Scurrilous slander and disinformation methods were used with the obvious aim of panicking the province's population and convincing it of the "shakiness" of the government's positions. I am familiar with the details of the situation prevailing around Konduz. The troops of the "North" group have been fiercely fighting armed opposition formations for several days. And although the situation in Konduz is still tense and combat operations to blockade seats of resistance continue, it should not be overdramatized. Afghan Army units will be able to stabilize the situation in Konduz and in the province as a whole.

Sensing the support of its Western patrons—first and foremost Pakistan—the opposition continues to gamble solely on force of arms and bloody terror, rather than on sensible compromise, and rejects the proposals by Najibullah, the country's president, to resolve disputes peacefully, around the negotiating table.

It should be noted that the actions of the Pakistani side, which has systematically committed flagrant violations of the Geneva accords, are of profound concern to our country and to the Afghan Army. Pakistan not only failed to destroy the counterrevolution's material base by 15 May—as laid down by the "Geneva package"—but, on the contrary, is expanding it on its own territory, particularly in the Khyber region. Transfers from Pakistan to deep within Afghanistan of armed opposition formations and the latest weapons and munitions, including "Stinger" and "Blowpipe" surface-to-air missiles, are being stepped up with the clear assistance of the Pakistani authorities. In July alone patrols discovered more than 100 weapons convoys and transports crossing our border. And this flow of weapons is increasing.

Nor is Pakistan carrying out such important provisions of the Geneva accords as helping refugees to return home. Some 140,000 people have currently returned out of those who left the country at different times. Undoubtedly this number would have been considerably higher if Islamabad had not put obstacles in the refugees' way.

These and other blatant cases of Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords have been properly documented by us and, as required by the "Geneva package," have been correspondingly passed on to the representatives of the UN control mechanism. If the Pakistani authorities' line of undermining the Geneva accords is continued, it cannot fail to make Afghanistan and the USSR draw the corresponding conclusions and determine their actions in the event that the interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs does not cease.

[Oliynik] Certain Western mass media organs continue to claim that, following the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country, "the Afghan Army will be unable to independently defend the Kabul regime." What can you say on that score?

[Tani] Before answering I will cite a few facts. Last year Afghan Army units conducted combat operations in 65 regions of the country. Of these, 36 operations were conducted independently. There were 10,740 ambushes on caravan weapon-shipment routes. During the large-scale "Magistral" operation the blockade of Khowst was broken and bread, fuel, and munitions delivered by convoy. Quite recently Afghan Army units routed the insurgents around Jalalabad, Gardeyz, Qalat... I think that the results of these and other combat operations have shown yet again that the opposition will get nowhere by military means. However, it continues to test the firmness of the people's power and, above all, the Army, and is doing everything to demoralize it and break the combat spirit of units and subunits. However, it will not succeed. At this turning point for the country's destiny the Armed Forces will steadfastly defend the Republic and strengthen their vigilance and combat readiness. I, as chief of the General Staff, have no doubts on that score. The Army and border and airborne-assault units are fully equipped with modern military hardware and weapons. This will allow them to successfully resolve combat tasks independently and to reliably protect administrative centers, supply lines, and roads. The formation of a new category of troops—guards units—is being completed. Its backbone will be made up of party activists and activists from the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan. With the completion of the formation of the guards the combat capability of the Armed Forces and their military and technical might will be strengthened still further.

May I take this opportunity to express gratitude to the Soviet Government and all Soviet people for their fraternal aid in strengthening the Afghan Army's combat capability and for their active support for the national reconciliation process. It is very important for our Army servicemen and for all Afghan patriots to recognize that at a decisive time for the country's destiny they are not alone and that we have with us loyal friends—above all the great Soviet people, who are giving us all-around assistance, including military aid.

On Afghan 'Fighting Efficiency'

LD1408081788 Moscow TASS in English 0647 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS—All the sections of Afghan society, as well as the servicemen of our Army, regard the withdrawal of Soviet troops as a political act of historic importance reflecting the concern of the Soviet and Afghan leadership for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan" [quotation marks as received], Colonel General Shahnawaz Tani, alternate member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and head of the General Staff of the Afghan Army, has said in an interview published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA today. "This is in line with the will and aspirations of our people for the settlement of the situation inside and outside Afghanistan by peaceful means in accordance with the national reconciliation policy pursued by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan".

Commenting at the request of the newspaper's correspondent on the situation in those Afghan provinces from which Soviet troops had been withdrawn already, Colonel General Shahnawaz Tani pointed out that the situation there, especially in the provinces of Badakhshan, Konarha, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Qandahar and Helmand which border on Pakistan continued to be tense and was characterized by a further intensification of the political and armed struggle between people's power and opposition forces. Government troops are resolutely repulsing the "irreconcilable".

The situation in Jalalabad, the centre of Nangarhar Province, can serve as a typical example. Soviet troops were withdrawn from there as early as on May 15. For three times leaders of the Peshawar "Seven" set the dates of the capture of the city. However, their plans never came true. Afghan Army units and people's militia supported by tribal units routed rebel detachments far outside the city and captured dozens of caches with arms and ammunition coming from Pakistan. Shahnawaz Tani pointed out that the civilian population participated more and more actively in repulsing the attacks and in preventing acts of terrorism. Such facts were registered in Jalalabad, Qalat and Lowgar Province.

Shahnawaz Tani spoke further about the stand assumed by Pakistan which continues to violate the Geneva accords. He cited a number of new facts showing the growing interference of Islamabad in the affairs of Afghanistan and denounced the continuing and expanding assistance rendered by the Pakistani regime to the gangs of the "irreconcilable". He pointed out in this connection that if the Pakistani authorities continued to pursue a policy aimed at disrupting the Geneva accords, Afghanistan and the USSR would be forced to draw corresponding conclusions and to define their line of action in case the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan did not stop.

The head of the General Staff of the Afghan Army spoke in detail about the combat training of the government Armed Forces, the level of their combat preparedness and the operations they stage. Afghan Army units staged combat operations in 65 regions of the country in the past year alone, of which 36 were staged without the participation of Soviet troops. In the course of the large-scale operation "Main Line" the blockade of Khowst was broken and bread, fuel and ammunition were brought there by truck columns. Quite recently Afghan Army units defeated the rebels near Jalalabad, Gardeyz and Qalat. Shahnawaz Tani pointed out that the results of those and other combat operations had shown once again the fighting efficiency of the Afghan Army and the inability of the opposition to achieve anything by military means.

Praises Afghan Army's Strength

LD1408122888 Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 14 TASS—The Afghan Armed Forces are strong enough to defend by themselves the sovereignty and independence of our native land, Colonel General Shahnawaz Tani, head of the General Staff of the Afghan Army, has stated. He pointed out in an interview with the BAKHTAR news agency devoted to the coming holiday of the restoration of independence and the day of the Army that successful operations against detachments of the "irreconcilable" opposition in the areas from which Soviet troops had been withdrawn were proof of the combat preparedness of the Afghan Armed Forces. By today 50 per cent of the personnel of the Soviet military contingent have been withdrawn from Afghanistan, the way it was provided by the Geneva accords. There are no Soviet soldiers internationalists in 25 out of 30 Afghan provinces.

The extremists suffered a crushing defeat in combat operations against the government groops, Shahnawaz Tani continued. This happened in Nangarhar, Wardak, Logar, Zabol and other areas. The situation there is comparatively stable. The accomplishments of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan acting in line with the glorious traditions of their ancestors who defeated British colonizers 69 years ago can be explained by various reasons. These include the experience accumulated during the years of the undeclared war, high morale of the soldiers, their devotion to the ideas of peace and national reconciliation, as well as excellent military hardware which most armies do not have. We can state with confidence, Shahnawaz Tani said, that the Army of the Republic is capable of dealing blows at any enemy and in any conditions.

Reportage on Afghanistan Military Actions

Combat Operations Outlined

LD1208122688 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 12 TASS—Four hundred armed opposition members took the side of the Afghan Government in the past twenty-four hours. In Faryad Province, the groups of Lal Muhammad and Jamil decided to give up struggle against the government.

Lal Muhammad's unit of 150 men comprises Achakzai tribesmen. Their going to the side of the government means that the tribe backs the policy of national reconciliation.

A 200-strong opposition formation laid down arms in Sar-e Pol Province. Former opponents of the government stated their support for the Geneva agreements at rallies held in provincial towns.

Fighting between government troops and insurgents continued in several Afghan regions on Thursday.

According to BAKHTAR news agency, up to 70 extremists were routed by the Afghan Army in the region of Dara-Sohrab. In Mohammad-Agha District, Lowgar Province, a unit backed by the Islamic Party of Afghanistan was routed. Its leader Zalmai and two Pakistani advisers were killed.

26 extremists were killed and dozens wounded and a munitions depot was destroyed in an operation conducted by security forces in the environs of the town of Taloqan, Takhar Province.

A number of anti-government groups were dispersed in clashes with government troops in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kardak and Samangan.

Seven extremists were killed as they attempted to shell the city of Qandahar: a mine exploded inside a mortar barrel.

Security men averted a crime in Jalalabad. They timely discovered a car laden with magnetic mines in one of the city's busiest thoroughfares.

Caravans with weapons and munitions were moving inside Afghan territory from Pakistan. Large batches of weapons were brought lately to insurgents operating in the provinces of Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Ghowr and Vardak.

The extremists received rockets, mortars, anti-aircraft guns, anti-personnel and anti-tank mines and rifles.

Part of these weapons are used in internal fighting between anti-government groups.

Armed clashes between units of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan and the Movement for Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan continued in the region of Chahar Bulaq, Balkh Province.

11 insurgents were killed and nine wounded in the fighting. There were 30 civilian casualties.

Dozens of extremists were killed in internecine fighting in Parvan and Nangarhar Provinces.

Unit Shelled Near Kabul Airport

LD1308171288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1629 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, 13 Aug (TASS)—TASS correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy reports:

A round hole in the concrete; shrapnel holes fanning out over the road surface; the half-destroyed pediments, lacerated by metal, of two housing units. Such was the picture that presented itself to the eyes of local and foreign correspondents who visited the location of one of the Soviet units near Kabul airport today.

The journalists were told that as a result of indiscriminate fire by gangs of "implacables" against the airport, one of the 15 missiles fired reached the vicinity of the unit. One officer was killed, and two were seriously injured. Two housing units caught fire from the incandescent shrapnel, but the fire was quickly put out.

A spokesman for the unit's political department stressed to journalists that individual groups of extremists among the opposition in operation in Kabul Province are doing everything to provoke Soviet forces to large-scale retaliation, and thus to torpedo fulfillment of the Geneva agreements. It is well known, he said, that the Soviet Union has undertaken clear-cut and unambiguous obligations to refrain from any military operations, with the exception of defending against attacks by the opposing side. The Soviet spokesman stressed that the simultaneous firing of 15 rockets at Kabul airport—not one of which hit its target—is evidence of the terrorist nature of this sort of shelling, which is aimed at the mass murder of people, the intimidation of the population, and the creation of feelings of panic among civilians.

Opposition Shells Kabul

LD1408105488 Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 14 TASS—Residents of three districts of Kabul, Behdan, Aqa Ali Shams and Chehel Sotun, were woken last night by powerful explosions. Three missiles that hit those districts killed four women and a child. Six people were wounded. Residential areas of Gardeyz and Khost were also shelled in the past 24 hours. A total of 14 people were killed and some 20 wounded, including women and children. One of the mosques of Gardeyz was fully destroyed and several apartment houses were damaged. On the demand of Khost residents Afghan Army units combined the Buri Heil District and killed 30 extremists.

Combat operations against "the irreconcilable" are going on in other provinces as well. Haji Abdul Nabi, head of a big unit of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan", and several other insurgents were killed in the course of a combat operation in the Asmar District of the Province of Konar. Government troops actively supported by the population and tribal units of the Enjil District of Herat dealt a blow at a basic area of deployment of one of the opposition detachments operating there. 27 extremists, including three commanders—Sufi Zahir, Taj Muhammad and Aqa Sayyed—were killed. A grenade launcher, a mortar, 45 hand grenades and some 200 anti-transport and anti-personnel mines were found in an arms depot captured by the government troops. Two extremist groups were routed in the province of Badakhshan and Baghlan.

Another 33 Afghans returned from Pakistan to Laghman Province in the past 24 hours. They were given material assistance and transported to the place of their permanent residence. Bodies of state power continue to distribute the necessaries among those who need them. Thus, a large amount of these products sent from the Soviet Union were distributed in Kabul among the families of those who had been killed when defending the revolution.

A session of a consultative council of the Ministry of the Restoration and Development of Rural Areas was held in Kabul. The session decided that the ministry should open its offices in provinces of the country. A recent meeting of the Council of Tribes and Nationalities at the president's office set new tasks connected with the implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

Craftsmen created a trade union in the province of Samangan with a membership of 150.

The BAKHTAR news agency reported with reference to information from Pakistan that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan", had personally asked the president of Pakistan to help him in his struggle against the hostile Afghan opposition groups. According to this information, Ziaul Haq sent to Hikmatyar 800 men armed with up-to-date weapons. Their task is to help him deal with the competitors in Peshawar and Islamabad.

Comment on Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

U.S. Expected To Apply 'Pressure'

LD1208190488 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—By a TASS diplomatic correspondent:

The date, August 15, when half of the Soviet troop contingent is to be withdrawn from Afghanistan, is approaching. By this day, the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan will have fulfilled yet another commitment under the Geneva agreements related to the withdrawal time-table.

The signing of the Geneva agreements on the political settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan became a new, fundamentally important development in international politics.

It reflected the readiness and ability of the states involved in a drawn-out conflict to exceed the framework of their own interests.

But the compromise reached in Geneva and the balance of interests are inseparable from the pledge undertaken by each side to act in a responsible way and observe meticulously all provisions of the instruments signed.

At a time when the USSR and Afghanistan have abided by the commitments since the first day when the agreements entered into force, the Pakistani side allows a gross and systematic violation of the Geneva accords and encourages interference in Afghanistan's affairs from Pakistani territory. This is reflected in the transfer of weapons and munitions into Afghanistan and the sending of armed units. Military convoys arrived recently in the provinces of Kabul, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Ghowr and Vardak and the Khowst region.

There remain camps and bases of anti-Afghan forces in Pakistan. Serious obstacles are being set up in the way of U.N. control.

If the Pakistani authorities continue the obstructionist policy, this may lead to the loss of the positive meaning contained in the Geneva process. This situation cannot but compel the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to make corresponding conclusions and define their actions in the conditions of continued interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

There are expectations within the Soviet diplomatic community that the U.S. Government, a guarantor of the Geneva agreements, will exert necessary pressure on Pakistan and will not encourage its actions that contradict the letter and spirit of the instruments also signed by the United States.

Ziaul Haq's 'Strange Logic'

LD1408220488 Moscow TASS in English 2120 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS—By TASS political analyst Yuriy Kornilov:

The more active the international community stands out for strict, complete and quick fulfilment of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, the more cunning overt and covert opponents of a settlement act, seeking to justify their violations of these agreements. An interview by Pakistani President Ziaul Haq to editors of the national NEWS TRUST is another confirmation of this. The Geneva agreements, Ziaul Haq said, are mandatory for Pakistan, they are mandatory for the Kabul regime, mandatory for the USA and the USSR. However, they are not mandatory for Afghan freedom fighters. Hence, the conclusion in the form of a question: How can one expect that Pakistan will stop combat operations being waged on the Afghan territory?

A strange logic, indeed. If you listen to the president you can get an impression that those whom he calls freedom fighters and who, preventing national reconciliation, commit in Afghanistan acts of violence and terror, drop on the Afghan territory from the skies and get weapons from thin air.

But this is not the case, and Islamabad knows this better than anybody else. It is on the Pakistani territory that headquarters and centers for training mutineers remain as before. It is from the Pakistani territory that lifting of armed groups and weapons to Afghanistan is going on. All this is in glaring contradiction with the Geneva understandings under which Islamabad put its signature.

It will be remembered in this connection that the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which was signed in Geneva on April 14, clearly says that the sides undertake not to permit on their territories presence, concealment, in camps and bases or in any other form of organization of training, financing, equipment and arming of people or political, ethnic and any other groups for the purposes of conducting subversive activities, inciting disorders or unrest on the territory of the other high contracting party. Has Islamabad forgotten about this important understanding?

Connivance of Pakistan at the establishment on its territory by "the Alliance of the Seven" of the so-called interim government was a crude violation by Islamabad of the Geneva agreements. It is difficult to assess the operation of this ill-starred "government" which does not conceal its intentions to usurp power by force, disregarding the opinion and the will of the Afghan people, otherwise but a deliberate fanning up of the atmosphere of confrontation in tackling domestic Afghan problems. Self-evident is also the fact that Pakistan would like very much to see in Kabul a government which, representing nobody, would be docile to Islamabad and not only to it. Another thing is quite obscure: How does such a course tally with the provision agreed in Geneva on the readiness of the sides to further the desire of the Afghan people for drafting generally acceptable measures to establish a government on a broad basis? The sides also agreed to support such a process and promote it with the understanding that any questions concerning the Afghan Government are a subject of exclusive jurisdiction of the people of this country.

No matter from what angle you will examine pronouncements by the Pakistani president, they are utterly illogical. Sparing no dyes [as received], he is seeking to portray Islamabad in the role of a "staunch advocate of fulfilling the Geneva agreements". But these dyes fade and peel when encountering facts, exposing a blind wall which is being stubbornly raised in the way of settlement by transgressors of the "Geneva package" commitments.

Vorontsov Welcomes Afghan Foreign Minister

LD1408153088 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Afghan foreign minister, arrived in Moscow today en route from Kabul to Helsinki. At the airport, Wakil was met by Comrade Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Demichev Receives Afghan Vice President

LD1208155388 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—It was pointed out today at a meeting betwen Petr Demichev, alternative member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and 'Abdurrahim Hatif, Afghan vice president, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation, that the understandings on Afghanistan have a legal status of world importance.

Greeting the guest, Petr Demichev noted that the friendship between the two countries and peoples dated back to the time of the great Lenin and Afghan Amir Aman Aqa. The principles of goodneighborly relations and equal cooperation were drafted at the time. Its concept at the present stage was formalized in the joint Soviet-Afghan statement adopted on the results of the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President Najibullah of Afghanistan.

The sides expressed unanimous opinion that the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan yields its positive results. The analysis of the present situation makes it possible to look into the future with optimism, though there is quite a number of difficulties. The Geneva accords have shown the entire world that regional problems can and must be settled. At the same time the sides pointed out that continued crude violations by Pakistan of its obligations taken in Geneva are in discord with the spirit and letter of these documents.

The sides confirmed their firm intention to develop in every way bilateral relations in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural spheres. They pointed to great importance of direct contacts between Soviet republics and regions and Afghan provinces.

Sub-Saharan Africa

RSA Sincerity on Troop Withdrawal Questioned

LD1208220588 Moscow in Portuguese to Africa 1830 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] On Wednesday, 10 August, South Africa should have started withdrawing its troops from Angola. This was established in the joint declaration on the results of the quadripartite talks betwen Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States in Geneva. However, according to reports South Africa is not withdrawing at the moment. In accordance with the commitment made, Pretoria should totally withdraw by 1 September. So far, this withdrawal has not yet started. Since Monday afternoon the cannons have stopped firing along the Angolan-South African border. Bomb and missile explosions cannot be heard. This is what our commentator Vladimir Grigoryev writes:

It seems that peace has arrived in southern Angola. However, the counterrevolutionary anti-Angolan UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] has declared that it will not comply with the agreement and will continue hostilities. The UNITA representative stressed that rebel groups will even intensify the fight against government troops.

But let us put aside these bellicose remarks for a moment. Let us return to today's main issue: the South African withdrawal. As far as I can remember, this will be the fourth withdrawal of South African battalions from Angola, continues Vladimir Grigoryev. [passage omitted] However, every time the South African [word indistinct] enters Angola again. Once houses burned and peaceful people died in Angola. Now we are witnessing another South African withdrawal. I am not a pessimist by nature, quite the contrary, says Vladimir Grigoryev. But after living for 5 years in this country and experiencing myself the consequences of the aggression and the economic difficulties caused by it, this time I would like to believe the sincerity of the South African authorities. But there is a doubt: Could this be another trick? Are Pretoria's strategists planning another clever game? Not only with regard to Angola but also to Namibia.

I am not the only one to have doubts. The British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT describes the decision to end military operations as extremely important for the regularization of the complex regional conflict, but also recalls that South Africa has twice agreed to grant independence to Namibia and then refused to do so. In other words, it did not keep its promises.

The Geneva agreement is no doubt very fragile and should be handled carefully. At the moment, it is the first step toward an end to the war which has already costs billions of dollars and 200,000 lives. I would like to be optimistic. I would like to believe in the reasoning and goodwill of all sides involved and in the sincerity of South African intentions. Well, a lot depends on it—the future of people and the entire region, concludes Vladimir Grigoryev.

Western Media 'Distorted' Adamishin Statement

LD1208153188 Moscow TASS in English 1431 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—By a TASS diplomatic correspondent:

Some news media bodies in the West, specifically the Spanish news agency EFE, in covering Thursday's briefing by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin distorted the meaning of his statement.

They claimed that the Soviet official called for direct contacts between the Angolan Government and the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] group.

This does not correspond to reality.

Speaking about differences between the Soviet Union and the United States on the problem of handling internal issues in Angola, Adamishin said the following:

"The Americans believe that they may call on the Luanda government to start a dialogue with Savimbi, to sit down with him at the negotiating table.

"They maintain that the situation concerning the elaboration of the agreements now discussed at the four-party talks would otherwise be complicated.

"We subscribe to the viewpoint that if a settlement is reached, removing external conditions for interference in Angola's affairs, if the South African troops leave Angolan territory (the withdrawal began yesterday and we welcome this fact) and if assistance extended to the anti-government UNITA group by South Africa and the United States is terminated, the Angolans themselves will be able to resolve their domestic problems.

"Here it is possible to draw a certain parallel with Afghanistan. The Geneva agreements provide for the creation of external conditions for the solution of domestic problems by the Afghans themselves.

We adhere roughly to the same stance in what concerns Angola and do not think we have the right, despite the fact that the Soviet Union has very good relations with the MPLA, to give advice to it regarding what policy it should pursue inside the country.

"President Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola said recently in his statement that some African leaders, without realising the policy of humanity and national accord pursued in the country, find it possible to interfere in Angola's internal affairs.

"As to us, we cannot interfere in internal affairs. This is our firm precept."

This was a verbatim account of the Soviet official's statement at the briefing.

Spokesman Perfilyev Denies Waste Dumped in Benin

LD1208165688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (TASS)—Baseless claims to the effect that the Soviet Union allegedly dumped radioactive waste in Benin have appeared in certain foreign media, in particular the NATIONAL CONCORD newspaper (Nigeria), Vadim Perfilyev, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, said today in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent.

The USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate earlier had to expose the fabrications on the same topic circulated by the BBC's African Service last April. Thus, at the 28 April briefing we stated that the claims about the USSR's supposed dumping of radioactive waste in

Benin constitute a typical example of misinformation and an attempt to undermine our policy in the nuclear sphere in the international arena. It is to be regretted that such attempts are being resumed, and that they are even finding a response, V. Perfilyev stressed. It is also justified to ask who benefits from this, and who is so persistently attempting to discredit our country by resorting to open slander, the USSR Foreign Ministry representative said. Are they not guided by the desire to cover up somehow the improper activity of those who are by no means averse to turning Africa into a dump of harmful waste, against which there is a wave of general indignation?

"We once again categorically reject similar insinuations and confirm with full authority that the Soviet Union has never dumped radioactive waste in Benin or in any other country," the USSR Foreign Ministry representative said.

As is well known, the July meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee called for the formulation and consistent implementation of a concept of international ecological security based on the broadest possible and open [otkrytyy] international cooperation. It would seem that the policy of the socialist countries, and in particular of the Soviet Union, on this issue is clear. However, unfortunately unfounded claims clearly intended to cause doubts on this issue are appearing in the foreign press.

Soviet Union Supplies Aid to Ethiopia

LD1308204188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] There is now a threat of famine in Ethiopia. Our country is giving Ethiopia food aid.

[Kraminov, identified by screen caption] This wheat is essential to save the lives of millions of inhabitants of the northern provinces of Ethiopia. They are now facing a very difficult time. There will not be a harvest in these areas until December. Stores of food, which were started as long ago as last fall, are coming to an end, or else have been stolen by the separatists who have recently been intensifying their military actions. The situation has also deteriorated because, since the beginning of the little war in the north, a number of foreign charitable organizations have halted their activities. A sea bridge has linked up with an air bridge. This is the Aseb Airport. Our pilots have not left Ethiopia since the last terrible drought of 1984-85. At first they delivered aid cargo to the disaster zones and evacuated people from there, and then they helped to eliminate the consequences of the drought.

On behalf of the government and people of Ethiopia Haile Mikael Kibede, representative of the commission for relief and rehabilitation, thanks our country for our support. People in Ethiopia know that the Soviet Union can be relied on in difficult times, he says, and your assistance has helped and will help us to hold out. [video shows bags bearing words "gifts of the USSR" being unloaded from ship; plane taking off and shots of Soviet pilots; gathering of Soviet representatives being addressed by official]

Astrauskas Delegation Returns From Burkina Faso

PM1208104988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Morning Edition p5

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 10 August, a Soviet delegation led by V.S. Astrauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, returned from Burkina Faso.

Demichev Receives New Guinean Ambassador

LD1508111888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Today Cherif Diallo, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea, presented his credentials to Petr Nilovich Demichev in the Kremlin. After the presentation of credentials and the exchange of speeches, a friendly conversation took place between them.

Soviet Bodies Greet Congolese Leader

LD1208185488 Moscow TASS in English 1813 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have sent a message to the Congolese leader, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, congratulating him on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Congolese Revolution.

The message pointed to the successes accomplished by the People's Republic of the Congo along the path of independence and progress, noted the country's active participation in handling topical problems and expressed the conviction that Soviet-Congolese cooperation, ties between the CPSU and the Congolese Party of Labour (PCT) would continue to strengthen and develop.

'Announcement' on Rwandans' Visit Published

PM1208141588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 5

["Joint Soviet-Rwandan Announcement for the Press on Visit to the Soviet Union by Rwandan National Development Council (Parliament) Delegation"—IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] A Rwandan National Development Council delegation led by its president, M. Ntahobari, was in the Soviet Union on an official visit 23-31 July 1988 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The delegation was received by P.N. Demichev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

There were meetings and conversations with V.S. Astrauskas and A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Yu.N. Khristoradnov and A.E. Voss, chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers.

The delegation laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall, and the Piskarevskiy Memorial Cemetery.

In addition to Moscow, the Rwandan parliamentary delegation visited the Moldavian SSR and Leningrad, where it was acquainted with the organization and activity of bodies of state authority at local level and their work to resolve tasks relating to economic, social, and cultural development. The Rwandan guests visited industrial and agricultural enterprises in Moldavia and Leningrad.

During the conversations, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, the sides exchanged information on the activity of legislative bodies in both countries, discussed topical problems of the contemporary international situation, and examined questions of bilateral Soviet-Rwandan relations.

The Rwandan parliamentarians were informed about the results of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, which opened a new stage in the revolutionary restructuring of all aspects of life in Soviet society, and about work to enhance the role played by local soviets within the Soviet political system, widen their powers, and reinforce their authority in the spirit of the policy of democratization and glasnost.

For their part, the Rwandan representatives talked about the results of the sixth regular congress of the National Revolutionary Movement for the Development of Rwanda and Rwandan parliamentary activity to solve the tasks of independent development facing the country.

During their discussion of international problems, the sides noted the coincidence of the two countries' stands on most questions connected with arms limitation, disarmament, and building confidence and mutual understanding between peoples. Both sides spoke in favor of the earliest possible implementation of the idea of forming an all-embracing international security system, which has the support of the international community. In this connection they stressed the important role that parliamentarians are expected to play in the task of stabilizing and democratizing international relations and developing friendship and cooperation between states.

The Rwandan side noted with satisfaction the recent progress made in the task of reducing Soviet and U.S. nuclear weapons and welcomed the signing and exchange of documents during the Soviet-American summit meetings in Washington and Moscow to ratify the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which opens up real prospects for building a nuclear-free and safe world.

In this connection the Soviet and Rwandan parliamentarians particularly stressed the importance of further progress along the path of disarmament and in the achievement of real results at the talks on the problem of making a 50-percent cut in Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive weapons while observing the ABM Treaty.

The Soviet and Rwandan parliamentarians expressed confidence that disarmament will free vast additional resources for resolving the vital socioeconomic and cultural tasks facing all states and that implementation of the "Disarmament for Development" program will help to overcome the economic backwardness of developing states. In this connection they expressed belief in the need to restructure international economic relations, guarantee states' international economic security, and solve the foreign debt problem on the basis of a just, global settlement.

Persistent hotbeds of tension and conflicts in various parts of the world, including southern Africa, are a cause of serious concern to Soviet and Rwandan parliamentarians. The sides spoke in favor of a political settlement of any conflict situation on the basis of respect for all states' legitimate rights and interests. In this respect any outside interference or artificial buildup of tension is intolerable. They consider it necessary to take real steps to implement the idea of making Africa into a nuclear-free zone.

When discussing the state of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Rwanda, the sides noted with satisfaction that there are firm, friendly ties between the two countries in various spheres. They expressed confidence that the further development of interparliamentary contacts will help to broaden Soviet-Rwandan relations.

The Soviet and Rwandan parliamentarians expressed satisfaction with the results of the visit by the National Development Council delegation to the Soviet Union and see it as a positive step on the way to strengthening friendship and cooperation between our peoples and countries.

The delegation expressed its appreciation to the Soviet side for the warm reception it had received in Moscow, Kishinev, and Leningrad; and, on behalf of the Rwandan National Development Council, invited a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to visit Rwanda.

East Europe

FRG Inspects Soviet-GDR Army Activity

LD1408214688 Moscow TASS in English 2124 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Berlin August 14 TASS—The ADN agency reports that four West German officers carried out an inspection of the activities (subject to notification) of the Group of

Soviet Troops in Germany and the National People's Army of the GDR. The inspection was made on August 12-14 in line with the documents of the Stockholm conference. It embraced the area of Glienicke-Brandis-Grossenhain-Luebbenau-Teupitz- Luckenwalde-Lehnin where an army exercise took place between August 8 and 14.

It was reported that the GDR had sent information beforehand about this exercise which involved 14,500 troops of the armies of the two socialist countries. The GDR Government complied with an application by the FRG Government on holding an inspection.

Fatal Collision Involving Soviet APC in GDR

LD1308164588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1615 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Berlin, 13 Aug (TASS)—A road accident with a grave outcome occurred early this morning on the territory of the settlement of Niebel near Luckenwalde (Potsdam area), ADN reports. The leading vehicle in a column of APC's of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany collided with a Trabant car, as a result of which two occupants of the car were fatally injured.

The circumstances of the incident are being investigated by the appropriate authorities.

Demichev Receives Flegel, GDR Delegation

LD1208220688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1457 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (TASS)—The crucial significance of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the July 1988 CPSU Central Committee Plenum for the implementation of political reform in the USSR, the ensuring of the sovereignty of the soviets of peoples deputies, the further development of socialist democracy, and the formation of a socialist state based on laws, has been stressed by Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Today, in the Kremlin, he received a delegation of the GDR's State Contract Court led by M. Flegel, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Contract Court.

The friendly conversation concerned questions of the further development of cooperation, the deepening of business contacts between the USSR's state arbitration service and the GDR's State Contract Court, and the extension of the exchange of experience among CEMA countries on consolidating legality and contract discipline.

The guests were acquainted with the measures to implement legal reform in our country and to improve the work of the law enforcement bodies.

M. Flegel noted the great importance given in the GDR to the exchange of experience with Soviet counterparts.

Events of 1968 'Prague Spring' Viewed

Slovak Journalist Comments

LD1408142488 Moscow International Service in Slovak 1700 GMT 13 Aug 88

[From "An Evening in Moscow" program; Stefan Bacchar, Slovak PRAVDA editor in chief, comments on current issues; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Agreement with restructuring is so univocal in Czechoslovakia that nobody in our country would dare refute the policy of restructuring publicly. A pharisaic hypocritical agreement is expressed also by politically bankrupted exponents of the so-called Prague Spring, including Alexander Dubcek. In a number of interviews which he has given to various Western mass information and propaganda media, he has emphasized that he was restructuring Czechoslovakia in 1968 and that he had everything firmly in hand. He obviously forgets what are—in his view—tiny differences. One of these tiny differences is that in 1968 in Czechoslovakia there was a real attempt at counterrevolution, at the real eradication of socialism.

"The Lesson Learned From the Crisis-Ridden Development in the Party and Society After 13th CPCZ Congress" explains it well. Its validity was confirmed yet again by both seventh and ninth sessions of the CPCZ Central Committee. Nothing needs to be changed in the "Lesson."

I emphasize this fact as we in Czechoslovakia are nearing the 20th anniversary of the arrival of allied armies which halted the crisis-ridden development in our country. There are enough speculations and attacks of Western bourgeois propaganda connected with this anniversary. However, we firmly emphasize that this is real ideological fraud on the part of the exponents of a right-wing of 1968 and the current internal and external and enemies of socialism in our country.

Drawing from the rich experience of the CPSU, and its current policy on the restructuring of the Soviet socialist society, we shall continue the construction of socialist society in our country, for the sake of advancing socialism in our country. This is the greatest lesson we can learn today from the USSR, because this is a real Leninist program of building socialist society.

Historian's Reassessment

PM1208145488 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 33, 13-19 Aug 88 (Signed to Press 11 Aug) pp 4-5

[Article by Doctor of Historical Sciences L.S. Yagodovskiy, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System: "Czechoslovakia: August 1968"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The date 21 August 1968 was the date of the sending in of troops from the USSR and four of its Warsaw Pact allies to Czechoslovakia. It is 20 years since then. How can the famous events of 1968 in the CSSR be evaluated from today's standpoint? We put this question to Doctor of Historical Sciences L.S. Yagodovskiy, deputy director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics of the World Socialist System.

[Yagodovskiy] What happened in and around Czechoslovakia then is attracting attention today not only, not even chiefly, because it is exactly 20 years since then, but by virtue of the significance that these events have from the viewpoint of understanding the present-day social processes that are unfolding in the CSSR and in the socialist world in general.

After the Communist government was formed in Czechoslovakia in February 1948 as a result of the acute clash between the forces of revolution and bourgeois restoration, the country, on the basis of a relatively high initial level of socioeconomic development, began a comparatively rapid transition to socialism. In the late forties and early fifties transformations of historic significance took place, but, as the CSSR leaders later noted, what also appeared at that time was an "impatient desire to accelerate social development in various spheres." Here, as in a number of other countries of people's democracy, as M. Jakes has said, "serious mistakes were made..., the cause of which was the personality cult and gross violations of the socialist rule of law and the Leninist norms in party life and state administration."

Subsequently, industry developed dynamically in the CSSR, the cooperativization of agriculture took place, and the working people's living standard increased substantially. At a national conference in July 1960 the CPCZ proclaimed the victory of socialism.

The shortcomings and errors of the initial period were rectified, but this was not always done consistently. The rigidly centralized command-and-administer system of management, oriented primarily toward extensive development in the economy, continued to grow stronger. In the sixties, as was noted later at the 14th CPCZ Congress (1971), the party leadership "began to show intoxication with success, which was one of the causes of the growth of subjectivism and voluntarism in defining political and economic goals and putting them into practice... An increasingly marked divergence between word and deed was clearly manifested in the unrealistic nature of ideas in the economic sphere, which led to the failure of the third 5-year plan (1961-1965—L.Ya.) and stagnation... in the economy."

The 1965 Economic Reform [subhead]

Thus, the results with which the CSSR entered the second half of the sixties were far from uniform. On the one hand, in 2 decades the Czechoslovak people had by selfless labor achieved undeniable successes in the development of industry and agriculture, the social sphere, and culture. On the other hand, a number of problems accumulated, associated mainly with the insufficiently efficient functioning of the national economy, the poor utilization of the potential and advantages of socialist democracy, and serious problems in the CPCZ's ideological work. An understanding of the need for comprehensive renewal developed increasingly in the country.

The adoption of the principles of economic reform at the CPCZ Central Committee January (1965) Plenum should have been an important step in this direction. These decisions made provision for increasing the role of the 5-year plan as an outline scheme for economic development, while considerably reducing the number of binding indicators "issued" to the enterprises and making use primarily of various normatives and quotas. Enterprises were granted the right to draw up their own plans autonomously, and were to work on the basis of the principles of full economic accountability and self-financing.

It was prescribed that, as organs of self-management, production committees be elected, with relatively wide powers. Wholesale trade on the basis of direct ties between suppliers and clients became the main form of organization of material and technical supply.

Even this incomplete list shows convincingly that the main features of the economic mechanism whose introduction was envisaged in the second half of the sixties basically coincide with the basic principles of today's transformations in this sphere in the CSSR, as well as with the concept behind the economic reforms now being implemented in the Soviet Union and a number of other socialist countries.

Supporters and Opponents of Reform [subhead]

It should, however, be noted that the aforementioned decisions were being implemented in Czechoslovakia with considerable difficulty. Heated debates flared up around the reform and its implementation was retarded by conservative forces in the party and state apparatus. It became increasingly clear that it would not work without a restructuring of the forms and methods of party work, without the democratization of society and the establishment of glasnost, and without socialism being endowed with truly humanist features.

The clash between the supporters and opponents of reforms was a confrontation between the creative Leninist concept and the dogmatic bureaucratic concept of socialism.

The well-known document "Lessons of Crisis Development..." (December 1970) noted that during those days a decisive majority of the party sincerely sought to resolve the problems that had arisen. The situation was complicated by the fact that the braking forces enjoyed powerful support in the top political leadership, including that of the then CPCZ Central Committee First Secretary and President of the Republic A. Novotny. Circles hostile to socialism within the country, who were, moreover, actively encouraged by imperialist forces from the West, tried to take advantage of the prevailing situation. An acute sociopolitical crisis developed in Czechoslovakia.

The external background to the events was also multifaceted. The West, as already mentioned, sought in every way to promote the destabilization of the situation in the CSSR. As for the socialist world, on the one hand, at that very time attempts were being made there to implement substantially similar economic and social reforms,—this applies first and foremost to Czechoslovakia's neighbor Hungary—and on the other hand, stagnation phenomena were gaining strength. The latter applies first and foremost to the USSR, where the new leadership headed by L.I. Brezhnev was consolidating its positions. It must be said frankly that in the last analysis this leadership was more sympathetic to the braking forces in the CSSR than to the supporters of renewal.

Slogans and Their Real Meaning [subhead]

In the course of 1967 a number of CPCZ Central Committee plenums analyzed the prevailing situation and its causes and voiced serious criticism of the atmosphere in the party. The plenum held in January 1968 was of great significance. Its decisions reflected the urgent need to overcome the crisis and eliminate obstacles in the path of profound transformations. The tasks set were to restore and strengthen the CPCZ's unity, strengthen its leading role in society and observe the Leninist norms of party life, remove the problems that had accumulated in the national economy, and ensure the consistent implementation of the economic reform. A. Novotny was relieved of his duties as first secretary, and A. Dubcek was elected in his place. (In March A. Novotnyy was replaced as president by L. Svoboda.)

January 1968 and the concrete program of actions adopted in April paved the way for the normalization of the situation and the unification of leading forces on a platform of renewal. But this opportunity was not exploited. One of the main reasons for this, in my view, was that despite the leadership reshuffle, unity of action was not ensured in the CPCZ Presidium, or in the party as a whole. Seizing the moment, antisocialist elements stepped up their activity still further.

A further peculiarity of the situation was that these forces' slogans often echoed the slogans of the adherents of genuinely socialist renewal, although the two invested them with fundamentally different meanings. But it was not easy to understand the crux of the matter and separate the wheat from the chaff in the conditions of an increasingly heated political struggle, and perhaps the desire to understand was not always present either. The impression is that the opponents of the course of "socialism with a human face" sometimes deliberately took advantage of this fact. The situation in the country got increasingly out of control.

Of course, it is for the Czechoslovak Communists to assess how real a threat to socialism had developed in the CSSR by mid-1968. At present the CPCZ leadership adheres on this question to the position formulated in the aforementioned document on the lessons of the crisis. According to this assessment, "the party's activity was paralyzed, and the state system in Czechoslovakia was on the brink of disintegration," from which the conclusion was drawn that "any other solution that did not make provision for direct assistance from outside on the part of the USSR and the other... allies... would have had no chance of success, since it would not have led to the salvation of socialism in the CSSR."

The "Brezhnev Doctrine"? [subhead]

On 21 August 1968 the USSR, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, and Poland sent their troops into Czechoslovakia. The political struggle was still going on, and the decisive turning point came in April 1969. The CPCZ Central Committee plenum relieved A. Dubcek of his duties as first secretary and elected G. Husak to that post, and made other changes to the membership of the Presidium and the Central Committee Secretariat. A month later, at the next plenum, a package of measures was approved to overcome the consequences of the crisis, and this became known as the "consolidation program." The economic reforms in the CSSR were basically curtailed.

Both then and later, Western propaganda wrote a great deal to the effect that the action taken by the USSR and four of its Warsaw Pact allies was associated with the so-called concept of limited sovereignty of socialist states, which became known as the "Brezhnev doctrine." I think the idea of such a doctrine was a fabrication from the first, but it must be said that grounds for this fabrication were apparently provided to some extent by some not entirely clear statements made by L.I. Brezhnev, among others, in the late sixties.

Today, however, in the light of the new approaches of the CPSU and all the fraternal parties to the development of relations between the socialist countries, the question of any doctrines of this nature is entirely devoid of any sense. Suffice it to recall M.S. Gorbachev's statements to the effect that the CPSU proceeds from the premise that the ruling party in each socialist country is fully autonomous in its actions and is answerable for them only to its own people, which does not, of course, exclude the importance of its taking into account on an entirely voluntary basis the common interests of the community and showing respect for its friends and allies.

No party has a monopoly of the truth and no one has the right to lay claim to a special position in the socialist world. In March 1988, during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Yugoslavia, these provisions were supplemented by the thesis on the impermissibility of interference in internal affairs on any pretext whatever. It is of fundamental importance that this approach, shared by all the fraternal parties, the CPCZ among them, is today proclaimed by the CPSU—the most influential of them, and proclaimed in the biggest, politically and economically most powerful, socialist country—the Soviet Union. This is not a question of imprecisely formulated statements like Brezhnev's, it is, if you like, a real doctrine, which, for some reason, the Western press is in no hurry to label the "Gorbachev doctrine," continuing, instead, to harp on the notorious "Brezhnev doctrine."

As we return to the Czechoslovak events of 20 years ago, it should be stressed that the goals put forward in January 1968 and in the April program are largely identical to the tasks of today's restructuring in the CSSR. That applies to the desire to resolve the accumulated problems, the democratization of public and party life, economic autonomy, and so forth. As J. Fojtik, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, stated in April of this year, "we make no secret of the fact that the source of the difficulties that gradually developed into a crisis situation in the sixties was the methods of management and actions that deformed socialism, and whose roots have not been tackled until today's restructuring."

West Europe

FRG's Scholz Urges Conventional Arms Talks
LD1408121988 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Bonn August 14 TASS—West German Defence Minister Rupert Scholz has declared for the earliest beginning of the negotiations on the reduction in armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe. Scholz, who was interviewed by the radio station Deutschlandfunk, today said that such talks could be started without waiting for the NATO member countries to work out a joint concept on disarmament and arms control.

Scholz today left for a five-day visit to the United States.

Paper Views Razumov Delegation Visit to FRG
PM1208105588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] Bonn, 10 Aug—A CPSU Central Committee delegation headed by Ye.Z. Razumov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, was in the FRG from 3 through 10 August at the invitation of the German Communist Party [DKP] leadership. The delegation had meetings with DKP Chairman H. Mies, other party leaders, and active members of DKP district and area organizations.

The Soviet guests talked about the progress being made in carrying out the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and CPSU Central Committee July Plenum. The conversations took place in a warm, cordial atmosphere.

The delegation returned to Moscow on 10 August.

Chief of Finnish Forces Kiev Activities Reported
PM1208100988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Visit Continues"]

[Text] General J. Valtanen, commander in chief of the Finnish Defense Forces, who is on an official visit to the Soviet Union, arrived in Kiev on 3 August [as published].

General Valtanen was received by V.A. Masol, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers.

The Finnish guest laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Park of Eternal Glory, visited the Kiev Order of Lenin Higher Antiaircraft Missile Engineering College and the S.M. Kirov Red Banner Military College, and attended a concert at the Ukraina Palace of Culture.

General Valtanen was accompanied by Colonel General S.A. Dikov, deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, and V.V. Osipov, commander of the Kiev Military District troops.

Murakhovskiy, Austrian Official on Agro-Industry
PM1208105188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation"]

[Text] On 10 August V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom, received Mrs I. Tikhi-Shreder [name as published], vice president of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and member of the National Council.

During the conversation, there was a discussion of certain matters connected with widening Soviet-Austrian cooperation in the sphere of agro-industrial production.

Maltese Foreign Minister on Peace Initiatives
LD1208121188 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Rome August 12 TASS—TASS correspondent Aleksandr Tarakanov reports:

The Soviet Union's peace initiatives which were put forward in the past few months contain many positive elements and are aimed at further disarmament and development of the international detente process. This has been stated, answering the TASS correspondent's questions, by the Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone.

"I believe that armaments should be reduced with due account for the existing approximate balance of forces. One cannot deny that exactly this global equilibrium since the end of the second world [as received] helped preserve peace. It would undoubtedly be better if the same could be attained by other means. But, I repeat, in the present-day conditions any change in the balance of forces might become a step towards a heightening of tension, but not its relaxation."

"It is exactly in this context that one should consider the forthcoming transfer of American F-16 fighter bombers from Spain to Italy", said the Maltese foreign minister.

Vincent Tabone then dwelt on questions pertaining to the role of the United Nations in settling the so-called "regional conflicts" and maintaining world peace. Any disputable questions, he said, should be settled by countries, provided mutual respect and confidence, which makes the use of military means just unthinkable.

The positive changes that have taken place in the international scene have not yet duly involved the Mediterranean region, said Vincent Tabone. But "the improvement of the USA-USSR relations and a turn in international politics towards disarmament and detente makes one hopeful that the problems facing that part of the world would also be successfully resolved", he said.

PRAVDA Views Thatcher Southeast Asia Tour

PM1208133388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 First Edition p 5

[Article by PRAVDA own correspondent V. Skvortsov: "What Kind of Visit Was It?"]

[Text] Bangkok, 9 Aug—British Prime Minister M. Thatcher has completed a series of visits to Southeast Asian countries. She visited Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. Before this M. Thatcher visited Australia. The present visit by the head of the British Government to Bangkok was the first visit at this level in the history of Thai-British relations.

M. Thatcher's talks and meetings in the three countries showed that by her trip the British prime minister was, in general, pursuing goals which are traditional for London's foreign policy course, above all so-called "defense" objectives. Once Britain was the pioneer in achieving agreements for mutually guaranteed security with Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, and Malaysia. But times are changing. Today the politicians and public in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok are talking increasingly about the necessity to create zones here which are free of nuclear weapons. But the talks which the British prime minister conducted concerned quite the reverse. According to reports from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, offers of British arms and military aid were made there as well as in Bangkok.

The other aim of M. Thatcher's visit was to promote British financial and economic interests. The British are not able to achieve what Japanese, U.S., and even West German corporations are managing to do in one of the most dynamic regions of Asia. There is still one more circumstance to be taken into consideration. The time is coming when London will have to concern itself with the fate of several million of its subjects in Hong Kong when this territory returns to China. Increased vigor was shown by the prime minister at a meeting with Prince Sihanouk in one of the camps for Khmer refugees in Thai territory.

Tour Results Discussed

PM1208102788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS correspondent D. Voskoboynikov report: "Foreign Tour Over"]

[Text] London, 10 Aug—British Prime Minister M. Thatcher has completed a 12-day foreign tour during which she visited Bahrain, Oman, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Shaykhdom of Dubai, which is part of the United Arab Emirates.

According to the PRESS ASSOCIATION, in the opinion of Conservative supporters this trip will have considerably strengthened Britain's reputation abroad, while the opposition regards it as "vain self-advertisement at the taxpayer's expense."

As if in confirmation of this last view, M. Thatcher ended her tour with a visit to the destroyer "Manchester," which is part of the British "Armilla" patrol group in the Persian Gulf. Despite the pledge made by Iran and Iraq to cease fire on 20 August, the prime minister said on board the destroyer that "everyone must still be on their guard." A correspondent from the British ITV television company accompanying the head of government interpreted these words as an indication that "Armilla" could remain in the Persian Gulf for months yet. It is hard to say how London expects to benefit from this. It is clear, however, that the continued presence of "Armilla" in the Persian Gulf will cost the British taxpayer dearly.

It is no accident that M. Thatcher's trip, of which the main stage was formally her visit to Australia, began with a tour of the Near East. In conditions where U.S. relations with the Arab countries are certainly not at their best, due to Washington's support for virtually any action by Israel, Britain is trying to "step into the breach." London recently concluded an agreement to supply arms to Saudi Arabia worth billions. Big military contracts with Near East states were also discussed during this latest visit by the head of the British Government. All this, together with the tone of M. Thatcher's remarks in Bahrain, has led the Conservative British newspaper SUNDAY TELEGRAPH to conclude that London's influence in the Persian Gulf is now stronger than it has ever been since the British withdrawal from the Arab Peninsula.

During her visit to Thailand, the British prime minister expressed a desire to play an active role in the settlement of the situation around Cambodia. However, the seriousness of London's intentions will obviously become clear a little later, when Prince Sihanouk, with whom the Cambodian Government has decided to maintain a dialogue, visits Britain in October.

Journalist Describes Audience With Pope

LD1308193388 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—The ECHO OF THE PLANET magazine published, in the "Political Portrait" section of issue No. 20, an article by TASS political news analyst Anatoliy Krasikov about Pope John Paul II and his views on problems of the present-day world.

The author visited the Vatican not long ago and was received in audience by John Paul II.

Krasikov said in the article that the pope assumed the names of two prominent religious figures—John XXIII and Paul VI, who had resolutely turned the church to real problems of the world, and thus sort of pledged to keep true to their policies.

At the same time, the author draws readers' attention to the contradictory nature of his encyclics.

"The pontiff set out his views on the most important problems of the times in his last encyclic sollicitudo rei socialis," Krasikov said.

Citing the document, he points out that Soviet people cannot agree with a whole number of them.

Drawing a portrait of the "man who, as the fate decreed, has become one of the key figures of the times", the author speaks about his erudition, knowledge of life, wide-ranging views and interests, and poetical and literary gifts.

"I was told about the pontiff's phenomenal capacity for work, his piety, long prayers and devotion to the cult of our lady," Krasikov said.

"The pope watches attentively world developments. The number of audiences he grants reaches 500 a year."

Speaking about the pope's numerous trips to various regions of the world, the news analyst points out the fact that every trip by the pope abroad evokes natural interest both in countries he heads for and beyond.

Also, each of these trips calls for special security measures as the present-day world quite often is subjected to attacks by terrorists of all kinds or by mentally unbalanced individuals.

On a possible visit by John Paul II to the Soviet Union, which was often discussed during the author's meetings in Italy, he said:

"At the moment when celebrations of the millennium of Russia's baptism were approaching, neither the Russian Orthodox church nor the Holy See showed any interest in such a visit.

"As to the future, a papal trip should be preceeded by thorough preparatory work.

"Differences between the two churches over the fate of former Uniates have grown quite acute. The matter at issue is Orthodox Ukrainians and Belorussians who several centuries ago found themselves under the rule of Rome and then returned into the lap of the orthodox church.

"Also, Soviet people do not understand the Vatican's stand on the Western borders of the Soviet Union.

"Although the Vatican signed the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Eruope, it at the same time continues to show hospitality to the 'ambassador' of the non-existent government of bourgeois Lithuania.

"And although the delegations of the USSR and the Vatican fruitfully cooperated during the European conference and at subsequent meetings of representatives of conference member nations, quite a number of problems affecting the interests of both sides are yet to be solved."

Speaking about the audience with the pope, Krasikov said that the audience, though relatively short, was very meaningful in content.

John Paul II "showed dignity proper to his rank, and at the same time was exceptionally simple. He showed that he could not only speak, choosing the most accurate words to express his ideas, but also listen to his interlocutor—far from all 'the powers that be' have this quality.

"I don't know what the pontiff was thinking when our meeting came to a close, but I made a conclusion that dialogue with the Vatican of John Paul II was realy possible and could be very useful".

Latin America & Caribbean

Delegation Meets Ecuador's Foreign Minister

LD0908202888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Quito, 9 Aug (TASS)—The members of the delegation of the USSR which is currently here, led by Z. Kamalidenov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met with Diego Cordovez, foreign affairs minister in the government of Ecuador's president-elect, Rodrigo Borja Cevallos. During the friendly conversation, an exchange of opinions took place on various international problems and the prospects for the development of Soviet-Ecuadoran relations. [passage omitted]

Talks With Vice President

PM1208135988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 88 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Expanding Cooperation"]

[Text] Quito, 10 Aug—A meeting has taken place here between the members of a USSR delegation headed by Z. Kamalidenov, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium deputy chairman, and Luis Parodi, Ecuadoran vice president-elect, who takes office today. L. Parodi expressed satisfaction at the presence of such a high-level USSR delegation at the induction ceremony for Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja Cevallos. The mutual exchange of delegations and contacts between state and party delegations from the two countries create favorable conditions for reaching specific accords in various spheres, he noted. The Ecuadoran vice president touched on questions concerned with widening cooperation between the two states in various spheres, above all in that of education, and stated the Ecuadoran side's interest in increasing the number of Soviet specialists coming to Ecuador to assist the country. He expressed the belief that both sides are interested in widening and strengthening cooperation.

On behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium the USSR delegation head congratulated L. Parodi on his election to the lofty state post and wished him success in performing his tasks.

CPSU Congratulates Venezuelan Communist Leader

PM1208104788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee birthday congratulations to Alonso Ojeda Olaechea, secretary general of the Communist Party of Venezuela]

[Text] To Comrade Alonso Ojeda Olaechea, secretary general of the Communist Party of Venezuela.

Dear Comrade Alonso Ojeda Olaechea,

We heartily congratulate you—eminent figure of the Latin American Communist and workers movement, patriot and internationalist, and sincere friend of the Soviet Union—on your 70th birthday.

More than half a century has passed since you joined the revolutionary movement. You have devoted your life and political activity to serving the humanitarian ideals of communism and the struggle for the vital interests of Venezuelan working people and for the triumph of the cause of peace, democracy, and socialism.

Soviet Communists value highly your contribution to strengthening fraternal relations between our parties and to the development of friendship between the Soviet and Venezuelan peoples.

We wish you, Comrade Ojeda, good health and success in your noble activity.

The CPSU Central Committee.

Peruvian Airline To Buy, Lease Soviet Planes

PY1208032688 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Aug 88 p A-1

[Text] Before returning to his country, Soviet Civil Aviation Minister Aleksandr Volkov yesterday announced that the Soviet Union would sell or lease airplanes to Aero-Peru [Peruvian State Airlines] and that aviation experts from the two countries will meet in late August with this goal in mind.

Volkov said that a decision must still be made whether the meeting will be held in Moscow or in Lima. He noted, however, that the meeting would probably be held in Lima.

Volkov explained that payments for selling or leasing the Soviet airplanes could be made through a compensatory mechanism, in exchange for the services rendered to Aeroflot airplanes at Jorge Chavez International Airport.

Brazilian Friar 'Advising' Soviets on Religion

PY1108191588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Aug 88 p 4

[By reporter Dermi Azevedo]

[Text] Brazilian theologian and writer Carlos Alberto Libanio Christo, Friar Betto of the Dominican Order, is advising the Soviet worship ministry [as published] in preparing a draft law on religion in the Soviet Union.

This draft law is inspired by the "glasnost" and "perestroyka" being promoted by Mikhail Gorbachev. The draft law is being sent to the leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church and other Christian churches in the Soviet Union.

Friar Betto went to Moscow last month at the invitation of Konstantin Mikhaylovich Kharchev, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs of the Soviet Union. During his visit, Friar Betto discussed the draft law which, upon becoming law at an as yet unspecified date, will then replace the religion laws decreed by Josef Stalin in 1929. The Christian churches consider the Stalin-dictated legislation too restrictive on freedom of worship.

Friar Netto told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO yesterday that he had heard Chairman Kharchev say that the new religious law of the Soviet Union "will not be a copy of the current laws in capitalist and socialist countries, nor will it be limited to defining the jurisdictions of the state and religion. The new religious law will focus on the religious phenomenom as part of 'perestroyka'."

According to Friar Betto, the chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs had said that the new law "will consider religion as a repository of ethical and spiritual values that are important to restructuring socialism in the Soviet Union."

In the last week of September, Friar Betto will travel to Beijing at the head of a delegation of Brazilian theologians and catechists for a 1-month visit to the PRC. The invitation was extended by the Chinese Christian churches, which were unified by a Communist government decree.

Friar Betto is also preparing a seminar to be held in Moscow next year. This seminar will bring liberation and orthodox theologians together with members of the Science Academy of the Soviet Union to discuss "Christianism and Socialism in the Future of Mankind."

This year, Friar Betto has been to the GDR, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union. In all these trips, Friar Betto carried out what he considers his "mission": to promote dialogue between Christians and Marxists.

Political & Social

Baku, Yerevan Ethnic Commissions Begin Work

PM1208111288 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Own correspondent R. Talyshinskiy report from Baku and own correspondent S. Bablumyan report from Yerevan: "Deputies Begin Work"]

[Text] [Talyshinskiy report] Baku—A routine session of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Commission for Interethnic Relations and International Education was held in Baku yesterday.

"The commission," its chairman A. Dashdamirov, corresponding member of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences, said, "includes such well-known and prestigious people in the republic as writer B. Vagabzade; Dzh. Guliyev, vice president of the republican Academy of Sciences; and kolkhoz chairman Kh. Abbasova.

"One of the main avenues of our work is to step up the role of local soviets in the international and patriotic education of the working people and the development of national and Russian bilingualism.

"In this connection, in examining the question of the problem of national minorities in the republic at its recent session, the commission concentrated on seeking ways to improve the means and methods of work of the local soviets in satisfying their socioeconomic and cultural needs. The commission's members are now going out to the regions of the republic where there is a concentration of Lezghians, Russians, Armenians, and Georgians in order to study the situation on the spot and talk with people so as to draw up materials for the next session, which is to take place in 2 weeks' time.

"It was decided to set up a council of consultants attached to the commission, which will include experts competent on questions of ethnic relations—economists, sociologists, demographers.

"The commission discussed the question of setting up a mechanism for collaboration with the supreme soviets of the Transcaucasian republics and their similar commissions. We intend to put this proposal to our Armenian and Georgian colleagues in the near future."

[Bablumyan report] Yerevan—The purpose of the recently formed standing commission of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet is not hard to guess from the national composition of the deputies belonging to it. A Russian and a Belorussian, a Greek, an Azerbaijani, a Kurd, an Aissor, and, of course, an Armenian. In any commission other than the Commission on National Relations and International Education it would hardly be possible or necessary to have such a wide representation of the nations and ethnic groups living on the republic's territory.

What should be the purpose of the commission's work? The first session was basically devoted to answering this question. I will mention just some of the tasks determining the main area of the deputies' activity. There is, first and foremost, assisting the representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast to fulfill the well-known CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution on accelerating the socioeconomic development of Nagorno-Karabakh. It is proposed to study and submit proposals for consideration by the republic's party and soviet organs on the resolution of problems arising in the sphere of ethnic relations. Particular attention will be devoted to questions connected with the ethnic structure of the republic. To this end it was decided, first, to establish precisely what nations and ethnic groups are represented in Armenia today, and after that to compare the economic, sociocultural, and daily conditions of their life with similar indicators for the indigenous Armenian population. The relevant subunits of the Armenian Academy of Sciences and VUZ's will be brought into this work.

Official on Rumors, Weapons in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1208212388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The normalization of public life in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast is proceeding under complex conditions. Law enforcement bodies are also taking part in that work. Their task lies, above all, in enforcing the laws and maintaining calm and security for the citizens. Our correspondent has spoken with (Aleksey Ilyich Nikolayev), USSR assistant prosecutor general [pomoshchnik generalnogo prokurora SSSR], state judiciary counsellor, second class.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] (Aleksey Ilyich), rumors arise from time to time in connection with the—let us be frank—unusual situation in the oblast, especially in the town of Stepanakert, rumors which sometimes last for a day or two, then die. And then other rumors crop up. Why? To what extent do they correspond to reality? I believe that you have enough examples.

[(Nikolayev)] Well, it is true, there are really more than enough examples of rumors. It is very regrettable that these rumors are instigated on purpose. There are forces which are interested in spreading these rumors and misleading the public. Naturally, as a result of all that, hotbeds of tension emerge. One example of these rumors, which are undoubtedly harmful and which eventually give people a distorted image of some events, is associated with the fact that at the moment a criminal case is being investigated by a USSR Procuracy team here in Stepanakert—a hideous criminal case, I would say—which involves the possession of firearms, bladed weapons, and—what is especially dangerous, I stress dangerous—explosives, makeshift grenades. And there can be no doubt: We do take resolute measures associated, above all, with the possession of such dangerous explosives and firearms. What is most important, we want people—the general public—to realize that these are not playthings and that they should be treated maturely. But, unfortunately, some people feel that it is not a serious thing. On the other hand, there are rumors that the procuracy has allegedly arrested dozens of people for possessing explosives. They glibly speak of—and quite persistently at that—they spread rumors that ostensibly 70 people are in custody. It is really amazing. Where do those rumors stem from? They also say that those 70 people are, generally speaking, people whose morals are beyond reproach and that allegedly the law enforcment bodies have committed some sort of an outrage. But we have only two people in custody, and they really deserved to be arrested.

Incidentally, we did detain quite a number people from whom firearms—particularly explosives—were taken away. But naturally, we cannot ignore detainees who are deeply remorseful about manufacturing and possessing these explosives and firearms. Taking into account the personalities of those people and the fact that they were deeply remorseful and surrendered the firearms and explosives—grenades—we found it possible to alter the punishment; naturally, they have been released. That is a normal occurence under present-day conditions.

And I want to make it known now that the voluntary surrender of firearms and explosives clears the citizens of criminal responsibility. I must say that the appeals which we have made have been met with understanding: People do come to us and surrender both firearms and explosives. That, I believe, is how it should be. What is important here is that people realize that that is a very dangerous thing, especially taking into account the fact that there are quite a lot of explosive devices around here, after all.

[Correspondent] (Aleksey Ilyich), what is the line of reasoning of the people who are engaged in manufacturing firearms and explosives?

[(Nikolayev)] They have various reasons, but essentially all explanations boil down to this: Well, there has been such a tense situation recently, and this is why we—for self-defence or something like that, to protect ourselves—had to make all those things. But I must say that this kind of talk is very unsuitable, because when the situation was really volatile here the law enforcement bodies had sufficient ability to ensure public order and public security. Naturally, there was no need to manufacture firearms or explosives at enterprises or any other place.

[Correspondent] That is right. And generally speaking, the very fact that people come by themselves now, voluntarily giving up those weapons, is probably additional proof that the situation has been normalizing, after all.

[(Nikolayev)] I believe that 2 or 3 months ago one could hardly have expected people to give them up. Yes, there were many opportunities but, unfortunately—we have been working here for 5 months already, after all—nobody would come, nobody would come. But now we observe that the realization of the danger, I would say, which is inherent in all that, has set in. People do come and surrender weapons. We can only say thank you, if a person has understood and done what is required of a citizen.

[Correspondent] And set an example.

[(Nikolayev]) Yes, and set an example, naturally.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Armenian SSR Building Homes for Sumgait Victims

NC1208183188 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Yerevan, 12 Aug (ARMENPRES)—Some 200 individual homes are to be built for the victims of the Sumgait incidents.

The decision by the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers states that the "Armenian State Planning Institute," the "Yerevan Planning Institute," and the "Armenian State Planning Institute for Rural Construction" must complete land surveying operations within a week. The ministers of water reclamation, internal affairs, communications, and light industries, as well as the (Arpa-Sevan) Administration, the Armenian SSR main administrations, other ministries, and high-level directorates have been assigned the task of constructing the houses.

It has been recommended that construction of the individual houses, which will be built on individual plots, begin by 1 September 1988.

The Armenian SSR Main Administration for Energy and the Ministries of Construction, Motor Transport, and Communications, as well as the State Committee for Gas Supply, will be in charge of supplying energy to the houses, constructing roads and setting up telephone lines.

'Top Priority' Discusses Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1308155580 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 12 Aug 88

["Top Priority" program, presented by Vladimir Pozner, with Radomir Bogdanov and Igor Malashenko of the U.S. and Canada Studies Institute]

[Text] [Pozner] How do you do, ladies and gentlemen. This is Vladimir Pozner presenting "Top Priority." With me on the panel: Dr Radomir Bogdanov, who's always—I mean a permament member—and Dr Igor...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Still a permanent member!

[Pozner] Yes, absolutely, and Dr Igor Malashenko, standing in for Sergey Plekhanov today, also of Moscow's U.S. and Canada Studies Institute. I think some of our listeners may be wondering when, if ever, we're going to bring up what is definitely an extremely important question and a serious problem in the Soviet Union: the problem of national or ethnic minorities, in particular in relation to what occurred in Armenia, what occurred in Azerbaijan, and more specifically in the Autonomous Region of Nagorno-Karabakh. This is not an easy question, and considering that most of our listeners may not be too conversant with the nationalities issue in this country, perhaps we should do a little bit of explaining.

If you will allow me, we are a multinational country like the United States, but the difference is that all the different ethnic groups, nationalities, what have you, in this country, have always lived here. They did not come from somewhere else, as in the United States. They always lived on a certain territory, within the borders of the USSR. They had a culture, and have a culture of their own, a language of their own, traditions of their own, and of course they are very different. Prior to the revolution, Lenin referred to imperial Russia as a dungeon of nations, where the Great Russians ruled supreme and the others were exploited and downtrodden. Many did not even have an alphabet. Since then, the country has changed radically. Suffice it to look at the once terribly backward peoples of Soviet Central Asia, and compare them to other nations living on the Soviet border to the south, and you will see that here you have a modern, normal society, whereas across the border very often you have a medieval, backward society. Nevertheless, there are these problems. What is, or what was, the reason, the main reason in your opinion, of what happened in this conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan? Dr Plekhanov?

[Malashenko] I mean, he is absent.

[Pozner] Sorry! He is absent! Yes!

[Malashenko] Well, the...

[Pozner, interrupting] Slip of the tongue! Dr Bogdanov?

[Bogdanov] This is very, very complex question, and I have no one-dimensional answer to that question of yours, but I believe it would be fair to say that problems were always existing between nationalities in the Soviet Union. After all, that is quite natural, and I don't make any tragedy out of it. There was another problem: that they, the difficulties in national relations, were cumulative. Nobody cared too much about that, because there was a theory that in the socialist society, in the socialist state, national questions settled once for ever. And that was an illusion. And when you start to build a new kind, a new socialist model, when you open all the Pandora's boxes, when you liquidate all the sanctuaries, and you make life, public life, really democratic, it is quite natural that all your grievances, all your sorrows, come out. You complain. And I believe it is very healthy, very healthy process, that once you have that opportunity, and if you get that particular problem between—in that triangle—Armenia, Azerbaijan and that small Nagorno-Karabakh, it's a kind of a focus of all the difficulties accumulated in the national federations. Due to historical development, that small autonomous region became a part—mostly Armenian—became a part of Azerbaijanian Muslim republic. Due to the history, I, I don't believe...

[Pozner, interrupting] When you say Muslim, you're talking about the traditional religion.

[Bogdanov] I mean traditional religion, yes. I, I talk about the traditional religion. And if you distort the national policy, you proclaim that all the nations are equal, and equal resources should be spent on development of every nation, but in practice, in everyday life, you don't do that, just...

[Malashenko, interrupting] Well, may I stress a slightly different side of this problem, because it's not just a social and economic problem. It is very important, and, unfortunately, this Nagorno-Karabakh district is underdeveloped, it's very obvious right now. But it is also a problem of national identity, and it's much more difficult to deal with because, you know, we can build roads and bridges. But as you know, we have decades of neglect, when children in Nagorno-Karabakh really couldn't have an opportunity to study a lot of Armenian history, to have cultural exchanges with Armenia, etc. And it, it's very easy, it's very difficult to heal this kind of wound. And I think that there is a very large amount of distrust in the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan right now, unfortunately. And so...

[Pozner, interrupting] There's no doubt about that. There's no doubt about that.

[Malashenko] Yes, and unfortunately also, they don't have a tradition, you know, a democratic mechanism, of settling these kinds of problems, of difficulties, on the local level.

[Pozner] I would say that no one in the world has that kind of democratic mechanism when it comes to settling issues that concern nationalities, ethnic minorities. That is one of the most complex.

[Malashenko] Yes, Vladimir, but look at the situation: We have a huge state.

[Pozner] Correct.

[Malashenko] Yes, and Armenia and Azerbaijan, they are republics, you know. [Pozner] Yes.

[Malashenko] And with their problems, with their grievances, they address Moscow, but it's impossible, it's impossible to solve all, all the problems in this huge country, especially, you know, national problems, with, in the center, in Moscow.

[Pozner] I'd like to pick up on what Dr Bogdanov said about the problem building up over the years, festering, and not being admitted. It is true that, I remember, I remember learning in school here, that we had no nationalities problem.

[Bogdanov] Yes, yeah.

[Pozner] That the nationalities problem had been solved once and for all; and my view of it is that if you have any kind of disease, any illness, and you refuse to diagnose it, and you refuse even to admit its existence, it gets worse. It does not get better. And I think what we saw in this particular area was the, the eruption of the illness. And I don't think that it relates only to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

[Bogdanov] And from that point of view, that, what happened, has its positive value. Its attracts...

[Pozner, interrupting] What you're saying is, every cloud has its silver lining.

[Bogdanov] Yes! Yes, yes, that, and I really mean that, because between other republics, some other republics, there also some very, very different problems of cultural nature, of a philosophical nature, and of land nature.

[Pozner] Yes.

[Bogdanov] Now, when you have this problem, when we see the seriousness of that problem, you have to take measures to settle all that, and I believe it would be of some interest to our American listeners to know what measures have been taken just to deal with that problem. For instance, we set a special group, very responsible group, which is sent over there to Nagorno-Karabakh with a very large, large power, to settle all the problems on the spot. And that's the beginning. They're thinking of setting up a special—even people are talking about setting, setting up a special committee on national, on national problems, which will deal with that. Maybe it, it smells like a bureaucratic, like another bureaucratic decision, but still, I believe even to identify all these problems, to recognize them, to make a list of all these difficulties, national, international difficulty, would make sense.

Now the second chamber, who are one of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, which is council of national, will have bigger powers to deal with all these questions. So as a dialectic, I am sorry for what happened, but at the same time I think if that would not happen, then would be, would be sleeping, sleeping for another situation.

[Pozner] We'd continue to ignore it?

[Bogdanov] To, to ignore it for another decade.

[Malashenko] Yes, Vladimir mentioned that it's impossible to cure the disease by ignoring it, but I would say even more, you know, I think that all those national differences—it's not necessarily a disease. It could be a very important social development of the society, I mean all this enormous pluralism. And you know, we seem to need this opportunity. By ignoring this, also for our development, we, we created a problem, a disease, for ourselves. And now I think that we still can use it for better, for the development of our society. For example, there are some obvious changes, there are some obvious differences in the economic developments of different Soviet republics. And it's obvious that it could be a source of major economic development, because if you have, for example, Baltic republics, which, with much higher level of economic development, and now they put forward the idea of economic, you know, self-reliance, and some real economic exchange with the rest of the Soviet Union, just based on real prices, on market forces, and so forth, I see that as an, as an important source of development. It doesn't contradict our modern contemporary economic philosophy, and it could really, you know, put some additional pressure on other regions in order to work better, and to make some economic changes.

[Bogdanov] I have no, I have no, I have no, I have no objections to what you have said just now. But there is only one comment to all that: that when people start killing each other, it is a different story.

[Pozner] Oh, (?completely so).

[Bogdanov] And that, that is, that is the result of the tension in international, in the multinational relations. I agree with you, that that might be a source of common, common development. But this is very risky, in the sense that if you don't neglect that kind of cultural, cultural, religious and all that part of national relations, it may, it may you bring something which has happened in Sumgait, you know, so that's what worries...

[Malashenko, interrupting] Well, of course that has nothing to do with extremism, extremism and social and political, political violence, and that's why we address this problem as a real disease right now, and we've paid the price for, for ignoring it for too long.

[Bogdanov] That's why I believe Vladimir calls it a disease, disease because it may kill, it may kill.

[Pozner] Right. Tell me this.

[Malashenko] In a sense it's a self-inflicted wound. This was my point.

[Pozner] If we, this is a question not many people seem to have spoken about. The whole problem began to manifest itself clearly in February, and we're now, let's see, it took 5, 6 months to, to start really solving it. Looking back over that period of time, would you say that the approach was democratic in the way it was handled, with all the manifestations, and the marching, and the strikes and the...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Vladimir, this is very simple. If that happened 5 or 10 years ago, the solution would be quite different.

[Pozner] Three days?

[Bogdanov] So, five or...

[Pozner, interrupting] I say, would it take 3 days to solve then?

[Bogdanov] Maybe 2 days, maybe 1 day. That's why some people are worried. Why, why it's going on, because it's a democratic decision! People have to learn themselves what's going on, and they have to take their own decisions.

[Pozner] As a matter of fact, yes please?

[Malashenko] Well....

[Pozner, interrupting] Yes, yes?

[Malashenko] Yes, of course, you know there is an enormous difference if we compare the situation with the if situation 5 or 10 years ago, but now we, you know, tend to apply the more universal democratic standard, and looking from this perspective, I would like to see much more open discussion of the subject in our media, for example because sometimes, you know, I, I find it quite, quite surprising when you can see some very small, small articles in our newspapers about this major problem. Isn't it the real problem which now is a matter of our concern?

[Pozner] Well, I tend to agree here with, again with Dr Bogdanov, who says that he sees some very positive things coming out of what is generally seen as a negative phenomenon. And the positive is that there's been a lot of coverage, especially recently, that the problem has been brought to national attention, that people were very worried and still are quite concerned—and I'm talking now about average people—and I think that is definitely going to help in changing the attitude and in looking for serious solutions. We're going to have a plenary session of the Central Committee on the nationalities issue, certainly, and I think we will see some quite serious changes, perhaps even constitutional. Let's not forget that not that long ago Stalin had entire nationalities deported, taken from their homelands, uprooted and sent God knows where. When you compare that to what we have today, I think, looking at what happened in Armenia-Azerbaijan, that by and large the government attitude was extremely lenient. Any country in the world where people would have tried to take over an airport, you would have had the police all over the place, broken heads, and probably the army. So that I think that there was also a lesson in democracy in a society that is just beginning to experiment with democracy.

[Bogdanov] I quite agree with you. I quite agree.

[Pozner] And I think that in a way it's brought the nationalities issue to the attention of every Soviet citizen, and that is positive. And judging from what we hear now, in that same area of Nagorno-Karabakh, the changes there are gradual, but they're quite obvious, and I think that we can be guardedly optimistic about how this will develop. Very briefly, do you agree with my assessment?

[Bogdanov] I agree, and I believe that the crisis, the major crisis is over. The major crisis is over. That's my feeling.

[Pozner] Dr Malashenko, you have 15 seconds to say what you think.

[Malashenko] Okay. I think that democracy is painful, but we don't have any other way, and I'm very much encouraged by the recent developments in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Pozner] Thank you very much. We will be back in a week at the same time. Until then, on the part, on behalf of "Top Priority," this is Vladimir Pozner wishing you good listening.

Turkmenistan Presidium Chairman Replaced

LD1308093188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A session of the Turkmenistan Supreme Soviet took place in Ashkhabad today. A republican law was passed on public discussion of important issues in the life of the state, which will become a fresh step in developing socialist democracy and self-management. Organizational questions were also examined at the session.

For shortcomings permitted in his work, Yazkuliyev was relieved of his post as chairman of the Turkmenistan Supreme Soviet Presidium. The deputy Bazarova, who formerly worked as the deputy chairman of the republic's council of ministers, has been elected to that post. Comrade Niyazov, first secretary of the Turkmenistan Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the session.

Yeltsin on Awards: 'Insufficient Glasnost'

LD1301151880 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1427 GMT 13 Aug 88

["Interview With Boris Yeltsin"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug (TASS)—On the eve of Builders Day, the professional holiday being marked in the Soviet Union tomorrow, a group of experts has been awarded

1988 USSR Council of Ministers prizes for the drawing up of the most outstanding projects and the construction of enterprises, buildings, and installations on the basis of these projects, as well as work on scientific problems in the area of capital construction. At the request of a TASS correspondent, Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the prizes commission and first deputy chairman of the USSR State Construction Committee, described some of the pieces of work that have been singled out.

First of all, it should be noted that USSR Council of Ministers prizes are an effective spur to encourage initiative and creative work by workers in industry and to promote the acceleration of scientific and technical progress in capital construction, he said. They are a kind of formal endorsement and a recognition of the level of their professional training, knowledge, and working contribution.

Describing the pieces of work that received 1988 prizes, Boris Yeltsin noted that all the projects had been built using progressive methods and means of organizing construction work.

The first deputy chairman of the USSR State Construction Committee talked about the prize winners. They include designers and builders from the RSFSR, Georgia, Lithuania, Tajikistan, and the Ukraine.

Interesting and original pieces of work and projects corresponding to contemporary requirements of scientific and technical progress have received USSR Council of Ministers prizes. At the same time, however, one is left with a certain sense of dissatisfaction; there still is insufficient glasnost and democracy in the nomination and discussion of candidates for USSR Council of Ministers prizes. As a result, after the announcement of the projects in the running for prizes, the prizes commission begins to receive letters objecting to individual nominations. Frequently, following additional consideration, these nominations are struck off the list. As yet, regrettably, few projects worthy of this high award are submitted. Thus, around 50 percent of submitted projects have been rejected by the USSR Council of Ministers Prizes Commission.

It also should be noted that republics such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldavia, and Kirghizia have for a number of years not submitted any proposals at all concerning projects and pieces of work to be considered for USSR Council of Ministers prizes in the field of capital construction, although there certainly are suitable ones, Boris Yeltsin noted.

Moscow Management Personnel Cuts Approved

LD1208194388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] A Moscow soviet session has approved the decision to reorganize the capital city executive committee's management organs. This has been done in accordance with the new general scheme for running Moscow's economy.

A considerable cut is envisaged in management personnel—by 30 percent. The halving of the organs of the next level of management—central boards, sections and other subunits of the executive committee—is envisaged as well.

Most industrial directorates are being transformed into city-wide production associations. They are switching to financial autonomy and self-financing and from now on will operate in full accordance with the law on state enterprise.

All organizational affairs will be completed during August.

'Shortcomings' in Ulyanovsk Oblast Work Noted

LD1308152788 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the issue of the work of Ulyanovsk Oblast's party organs aimed at fulfilling the decision of the CPSU Central Committee on restructuring the system of the working people's political and economic education. The resolution adopted notes that, along with positive changes, essential shortcomings with regard to this issue are in evidence in the work of the oblast party organs. Many party committees underrate the opportunities of Marxist-Leninist education as an effective tool for mastering the political methods of guidance and for ideological influence on the masses, and confine themselves to superficial changes. The CPSU Central Committee made it incumbent upon the Ulyanovsk Obkom, Gorkom, and Raykom and its primary party organizations to take all the necessary measures to insure fulfillment of the party Central Committee decision on restructuring the system of political and economic education of the working people.

Official on 'Centralized' Investigative Bodies

LD1308021588 Moscow TASS in English 2322 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The aim of the current restructuring of Soviet investigating bodies is to place the majority of criminal cases under the jurisdiction of an investigating apparatus of the USSR Ministry of the Interior, which will operate as an independent unit unaccountable to local militia bodies.

Lieutenant-General of Soviet militia Boris Zabotin, USSR deputy interior minister, has described as correct the decision to set up a centralized investigating apparatus under the supervision of the chief investigating department of the USSR Ministry of the Interior.

In an interview with TASS correspondent, he said that defects in the structure of Soviet investigating bodies had started to appear in the 1970s when judicially independent preliminary investigation bodies were made part of the then-formed district and city interior departments (also performing the functions of militia).

That gave rise to legal, organisational and other collisions and led to cases of interference in the work of investigation officers and violation of their status of independence.

Some investigation departments considered it more important to improve "statistics" rather than work, which was sometimes done through concealing some of the crimes.

Boris Zabotin said that judicial supervision and legality control by procuracy had now been strengthened and a system of daily control by the heads of the investigating units over the lawfulness of actions of their subordinates had been introduced.

However, it is still early to say that legality has been fully restored. Courts are rehabilitating people brought to trial or even arrested without any grounds in previous years at the request of supervisory agencies or by appeals.

Boris Zabotin stressed the need of forming a new type of investigation officer free from distorted legal views and convictions which do not meet modern requirements.

The chief task is to develop the personality of an investigation officer and form a person with a deep sense of duty, who will be able to unravel the most intricate mass of circumstances and take a decision only in accordance with the law.

Stricter Penalties for Gambling Adopted

LD1208191588 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 12 Aug 88

["USSR Adopts Anti-Gambling Law"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Persons playing games, like cards or roulette, for money and valuables and receiving stakes at sport and other competitions in circumvention of the existing order at race-courses and other facilities will no longer get off with a warning or a small fine.

The fine will be sharply increased, while the gambling accessories, money and other valuables used as stakes in the game will be confiscated.

The stricter punishment for gambling is envisaged in the amendments made on Thursday to the existing legislation by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the Russian Federation, the largest republic in the USSR.

Under the new legislation, organisation of gambling games is punishable by a fine worth between 100 and 500 roubles with the confiscation of gambling accessories and valuables used as stakes.

The average monthly pay of the Soviet citizen is about 200 roubles.

Repeating offenders can be imprisoned for 12 months or sent to corrective labour institutions for a period of two years or be fined 1,000 roubles with or without property confiscation.

Persons already tried for gambling may be imprisoned for up to three years and their property confiscated.

Defective Residential Home Provision Censured

PM1208143988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Morning Edition p2

[Unattributed report: "In the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee. On the Lack of Discipline Displayed by the Leaders of Some Ministries and Local Soviet and Economic Bodies in the Implementation of Party and Government Resolutions on the Problems of Improving Living Conditions for War and Labor Veterans, Invalids, and the Aged"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee has discussed the issue of the lack of discipline displayed by the leaders of some ministries and soviet and economic bodies in a number of republics and oblasts in the implementation of party and government resolutions on the problems of improving living conditions for war and labor veterans, invalids, and the aged.

The decision adopted by the committee notes serious shortcomings in this work in the Latvian SSR, Kazakh SSR, USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, and USSR Ministry of Construction in the Southern Regions of the USSR.

In the Latvian SSR, for example, approximately half the existing housing stock in the form of residential homes is not really fit for habitation, as they lack central heating, a sewerage system, and other municipal services. There are about 2,000 people on the waiting list for this kind of accomodation. In the first 2 years of the 5-year period there were no residential homes built here for single senior citizens that could offer a complex of social and consumer services and premises for labor activity, and no territorial social services centers were formed. The 1987 targets for the construction and commissioning of 500 places in residential homes were not met.

Targets to develop the network of residential homes for war and labor veterans and invalids in the Kazakh SSR are not being met. One in five residential homes here is located in adapted premises, some of which are in a dangerous or dilapidated condition and overcrowded, and many do not meet sanitation and hygiene conditions of residence. There are some 9,000 people on the waiting list.

Despite this, in 1986-1987 only 380 of the planned 620 places in residential homes were commissioned. In the last 2 years and 5 months R2 million of the R6.4 million allocated for building the aforementioned projects has not been used. The Karaganda Oblispolkom is not taking measures to eliminate the lag in the construction of a residential home and to ensure that the project is supplied with local construction materials in good time, and no planning estimates have been drawn up for the construction of a second residential home. Progress in the construction of residential homes in the city of Dzhezkazgan and the village of Zevakino in East Kazakhstan Oblast is extremely unsatisfactory, and in the cities of Dzhambul and Kzyl-Orda the construction work has not even started.

The leaders of the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Southern Regions of the USSR are not exacting toward contract organizations failing to meet targets at these projects, as a result of which in 1986-1987 four of the seven planned residential homes, offering 1,000 places, were not commissioned.

Because of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry's failure to take measures to carry out preconstruction work, draw up planning estimates in good time, and other factors, it has fallen behind in meeting the 12th 5-Year Plan targets for commissioning residential homes for coal industry labor veterans.

The decision notes that the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems is being intolerably slow and disorganized in the development and production of small mechanical devices and appliances to facilitate the provision of services for the aged and disabled. Almost one-third of all goods manufactured for this purpose do not come up to current health care levels and requirements. A solution to the problem of increasing capacity for the series production of equipment to care for the sick is taking too long. The USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry has failed to take measures to increase the output of special furniture for the aged and invalids.

The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee has issued reprimands to Comrade L.L. Bartkevich, member of the CPSU and deputy chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers, and Comrade Ye.V. Bortnikov, member of the CPSU and USSR deputy minister of construction in the southern regions of the USSR, for unsatisfactory organization of work to meet the targets set by CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions for the construction of residential homes for war and labor veterans.

The attention of Comrade V.P. Ovsyannikov, first deputy chairman of the Kazakh SSR Gosstroy, was drawn to serious shortcomings in the construction of residential homes and the unsatisfactory use of funds allocated for this purpose. Comrade V.A. Bardashov, first deputy chairman of the Karaganda Oblispolkom, was severely cautioned for poor progress in the construction of a residential home and failure to supply construction projects with planning estimates in good time. Comrade A.N. Pukhteyev, USSR deputy minister of the coal industry, was reprimanded for serious shortcomings in this work.

The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee took into account statements made by the leaders of the aforementioned ministries and departments that they will draw the necessary conclusions from the discussion of this problem and take urgent measures to eliminate the shortcomings and meet targets for the construction and equipping of residential homes and boarding houses for veterans, invalids, and the aged.

Review of Labor Colony Regime Urged

PM1208152588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Third and final part of article by special correspondent Leonid Shinkarev: "The Zone. An Especially Close Public Monitoring Is Needed"]

[Text] The process of democratization which is gathering pace has cast more penetrating light onto the repulsive aspects of Stalinshchina, the time when a mass of innocent people, their numbers still to be counted, perished in the camps. The consequences of this psychological tension can still be felt to this day. While rejecting the dark past and becoming firmly convinced that there can be no return to it, we nevertheless must bear in mind that the correctional labor system is still an inevitable part of our reality. Society is forced, and will remain so for a long time to come, to isolate those who infringe its laws, commit crimes, and jeopardize the safety of each and every one of us. This is why this system demands an approach which must be as considered as that applied to other spheres of life.

During my travels to the colonies and my meetings with inveterate criminals, I heard them say that apparently the time will come when they will also be able to take advantage of the situation. A leaflet found on a convict who had been transported to Krasnoyarsk's No 1 Remand Detention Center read as follows: "Brothers, the time for action has come. Restructuring is playing into our hands, it will wipe the slate clean, it will forgive everything. After all, if we miss the chance now, when we are the last thing on people's minds, we may not get another opportunity again. Our time has come!"

Let us not dwell on the provocative nature of this appeal. There is no danger of convicts responding to this kind of appeal by recidivists. Most of them want to serve their sentences, rejoin their families, and take part in the life of society. Something else is alarming: How is it that this kind of leaflet and the instances of regime violations (escapes, refusals to report for work, and so on) have failed to alert the law enforcement organs to the need to critically review the state of affairs in the correctional labor system.

History shows that a humanitarian attitude toward a person, no matter what sort of person he might be, can either bring him back to his senses or fail to produce any result. But there have been no instances of cruelty helping to bring anyone back to the straight path. And even though our sympathy must go primarily to the victim rather than to the criminal, we—if we nevertheless wish not simply to inflict punishment for the deed but to bring someone back into society, provided only that he can be brought back—would not go very wrong if we were to take a fresh look at many of the existing correctional system's postulates.

Whenever a crime has been committed, our attention is usually focused on the criminal's detection and his punishment. The subsequent fate of people who at times spend 10-12 years of their lives—their best years—behind barbed wire, is concealed from society. Their wives leave them, their children do not know them, their comrades forget them, and it is only their mothers, their mothers and nobody else, who pray for them. We pretend to have no idea that another world, with its own dramas, sufferings, and problems, exists in parallel with our world.

The tradition of keeping secret any decisions concerning correctional labor institutions has been preserved ever since the worst times under Stalin. Until recently, at times even those who had to carry them out had no access to these decisions. Paradoxical situations developed whereby regulations governing places for deprivation of freedom were issued with the stamp of secrecy: When notifying convicts of their rights and duties stemming from such regulations, colony administrations acted as if divulging state secrets. Convicts today are sufficiently well informed of their nutritional norms, payments in kind, and the restrictions applying to them. But all this still remains a secret as far as the public at large is concerned, including their relatives, friends, and comrades. Even juridical circles have no opportunity to discuss the expediency of "classified" departmental documents.

This is something else that we can think about together.

Under regime regulations it is allowed to have murderers, bandits, and so on in one and the same detachment as people who have committed official or economic crimes. All people are equal in the eyes of the law, but the colony administration knows that the circle of inveterate criminals immediately creates its special world, with its own laws of behavior and even its own special slang. Even colony staffers themselves and even ensigns of the Internal Troops, who spend years in contact with convicts, become cruder and more cruel, adopt their slang, and catch the occupational disease known as "prisonization" (from the English word "prison"). And if we agree that no two people are alike and that each one requires an individual approach, then the need for differentiation within the community of convicts becomes that much greater.

Not only the convicts but also the colony administrations are now complaining about the rigid regulations which offer educators limited opportunities to encourage those who are conscientiously performing their duties. If a convict is no longer a danger to society, and there are no complaints about his behavior, why should he not be allowed extended meetings with his family on three or even four occasions, rather than just twice a year? Or why not allow him to make telephone calls to his family and friends provided he pays for them? Out of respect for our human dignity, we ought to expand the borders of social compassion in some cases.

Without awaiting instructions, many leaders of correctional labor institution administrations have started abandoning unjustified restrictions which are humiliating not only for the inmates but also for the colony staffers themselves. I got used to seeing premises designated for brief meetings with their wooden cages, enclosed in glass and fitted with telephones which convicts use to converse with their relatives, and I was surprised to see parents meeting their convict children at the Angarsk Educational Labor Colony for Minors without any barriers, clasping their shaved heads to their breasts. "You know, none of our efforts can be compared to the educational effect of close contact, when an adolescent runs into the hands of his mother or father," I was told by Colonel of Internal Services V. Balandin, chief of the Irkutsk Oblast Correctional Labor Institutions Administration.

The unquestioned custom of surrounding every colony, regardless of its regime, with many rows of complex fences and installations resembling antitank obstacles, even in places where first offenders are kept and which need nothing more than a simple split rail fence to keep them in, goes back to the thirties. But observation towers manned by servicemen with submachineguns, barbed wire, expensive electrical installations, plowed up strips, and so on seem to be pleasing to somebody's eyes, creating an impression of reliability and proper order.

A group of convicts from the No 11 Women's Correctional Labor Colony in Ust-Orda in the Buryat Autonomous Okrug was taken to work at dairy farms by its team leader without escorts or dogs. There had not been even an attempted escape in 15 years. But former Minister of Internal Affairs Fedorchuk sent a commission headed by Colonel Svanidze to Irkutsk Oblast. The commission demanded that the farms be fenced in according to regulations and that the women be taken to work under escort. Milk yields on the farms fell by almost three-fourths and the untended cows just about produced five liters of milk each. The prime cost of meat on hog farms rose sharply. Permission had to be given by the new minister of internal affairs in person for the women to go to work again without escorts.

This is more than just a question of how little is left to the discretion of the actual colony administration, which works with the convicts and knows best of all which steps would be most sensible in specific circumstances. Some staffers in regime services imagine that harsher measures testify to their permanent vigilance and unflagging diligence.

Even before my trip, on reading through convicts' letters arriving in the editorial office, I noticed that almost none of them had arrived through official channels, according to regulations, from the place for deprivation of freedom. All the correspondence had been dispatched illegally, using all possible means to get it through to the free world, bypassing the post box provided in every colony where letters must be dropped unsealed. They are to be read by letter control inspectors or, to put it briefly, censors. In colonies with an intensified, strict, or special regime, where dangerous criminals are kept, it is probably necessary to look through the correspondence to prevent the planning of new crimes or to bring to light matters that have not been fully investigated. But is it all that necessary to read through all the letters written by first offenders or adolescents?

Irkutsk Oblast has 40 such inspectors. They are, as a rule, girls with secondary education. They have to read through an average of 300-400 letters a day. Not a single one of those with whom I talked could remember a case when this reading helped to uncover some crime.

While at the aforementioned Ust-Orda Female Colony, I met Letter Control Inspector L. Gusachik. Her previous job was in a kindergarten, and she has been reading letters for 3 years now. She earns R95 a month, spending a lot of time on the letters—there are up to 1,000 of them on Mondays, and she even has to take some of them home to read in the evenings. So far she has been unable to find anything of interest to the colony administration in the correspondence.

A notice is posted in the corridor of Krasnoyarsk's No 1 Remand Detention Center: "Complaints, applications, and letters addressed to state organs, public organizations, or officials in person and raising questions which these organs, public organizations, or officials are not competent to resolve by virtue of regulations governing their position or powers will not be forwarded to the addressees."

Is the administration of correctional labor institutions empowered to determine the powers of state organs, public organizations, or officials?

"Some convicts write about their problem to the CPSU Central Committee and even to the United Nations, did you know that?" I heard it said in the colonies.

"And so what?" I asked in return.

Once the convicts are released, who will control their correspondence and confiscate their letters, even if they are not properly addressed?

I managed to find out that the warning posted behind glass in the Krasnoyarsk Detention Center paraphrases one of the provisions contained in the "Rules of Internal Procedures in Correctional Labor Institutions." These same rules (paragraph 33, subparagraph 6) contain a small provision which the detention center administration apparently decided that convicts need not know: If an appeal is improperly addressed "the appellant is notified accordingly for the record in writing and is advised to address his suggestion, statement, or complaint to the appropriate competent organ, organization, or official. Should the writer deem the administration's actions incorrect, he is entitled to appeal against them to the prosecutor supervising the observance of laws in correctional labor institutions...."

Colony staffers could have explained all this to convicts and could have helped them exercise their rights if the semiliterate, crude, and uncouth among them had already been ousted. But you still come across such people. Someone dressed in military uniform might insult a convict in an offhand manner in the performance of his official duties, but if offered R25 he will secretly bring in either a packet of tea or some moonshine inside a rubber glove taped to his shin under immaculately pressed pants. Having already seen such people among the convicts, in the company of other criminals from administrative organs inside Irkutsk's No 3 Correctional Labor Colony (its inmates include former investigators, judges, prosecutors, KGB staffers, and so on), you think optimistically about society's renewal.

And now about the convicts' living conditions. While inside the zone I did not come across any starving people, but the daily calorie norm is hardly in line with the locality or the work conditions. The variety of products in colony stores is extremely poor, and not more than R25 worth can be bought per month. But it is not everyone who has that sort of money, not even people who work well. Convicts make payments for family maintenance and property damage judgments. Previously, no matter how much was deducted from a convict, he was still left with 10 percent of his earnings for his personal needs. The procedure was changed recently, the minimum was abolished, and this produced consequences which had not been envisaged by those who drafted the legislative act. Gambling is now rife in the colonies and there are more instances of theft, robbery, and disorder.

Was a considered approach applied in this case?

Instructions make no provisions for the installation of sockets or the use of electric kettles in remand detention center cells. People burn books, sheets, or blankets to warm up their food or to boil water for tea. "Why should they live like animals?" Ya. Stepanov, chief of Irkutsk's No 1 Remand Detention Center, told me. He took it upon himself to allow the installation of sockets inside the cells. And nothing happened.

Convicts must have incentives to work and observe the regime. If there are no complaints against them, why not give them opportunities to obtain better and more varied food at their own expense? This applies especially to adolescents. It is hard to understand why packages and parcels sent to an adolescent by his mother may contain candy but not chocolates. Is it because an adolescent can be more quickly reformed once he has forgotten what they taste like?

Lieutenant Colonel V. Shumkov, chief of the Angarsk Educational Labor Colony for Minors, and his chief bookkeeper A. Kravchenko decided to let the kids eat pork chops on one of the holidays. They slaughtered a hog from the colony's subsidiary farm. And they honestly told the auditors about this on their next visit. They did not try any tricks like in other colonies, when a hog weighing 70 kg is slaughtered and a weight of only 50 kg is recorded.... "After all, we have here adolescents aged between 14 and 18 years, tomorrow's men and soldiers!" they said by way of justification. The auditors, being themselves fathers, understood everything, but the cost of the chops was nevertheless deducted from their salaries.

And yet, as far as the convicts are concerned, the colony chief is the authority....

It is sad to see convicts being set free. Right away you notice the stamp of the colony, somehow setting them apart from other people. One can understand colony chiefs when they suggest that stores inside the zone should sell overcoats, suits, shirts, ties, shoes, or boots so that those about to be released can buy them and feel like new people once outside the colony gates.

Our Criminal Code, in contrast with codes in some foreign countries, makes no provision for punishment in the form of life imprisonment. Convicts are sooner or later set free. It is in the interests of each one of us that they do not return to society forgotten and cheated, embittered and aggressive, but come back as healthy and normal people who have suffered in the past but are now ready to live and work with all the rest.

From the Editorial Office [subhead]

Concluding our publication of "The Zone," we realize that we have touched on a sphere to which little attention was paid in the past. We expect that open and keen coverage of its problems and specific features will provide yet another incentive to the work now being done to draft new correctional labor legislation.

No Plans To Publish Solzhenitsyn Works

LD1308103988 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—"The publication in the USSR of works by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn brought out abroad is not planned so far", the newspaper TRUD reported today answering questions of its readers. It quoted information obtained at the USSR State Committee for Printing, Publishing and Book Trade.

"As for the publication of Solzhenitsyn's works published earlier in the USSR, this problem should be tackled by publishing houses themselves", the committee believes.

Khrushchev Speech 'Still' Not Published

LD1308064788 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1850 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "View" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Presenter] Comrade (Okhremchik) from the town of Baranovichi has brought us a copy of the [Polish] newspaper POLITYKA—to be honest, this is the first time I have held this paper in my hand—containing Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev's speech at the 20th party congress on the personality cult. He asks why the speech still has not been published in our country. Well, it beats me. [passage omitted]

Stalin's Secret Wartime Orders Displayed

LD1208195088 Moscow TASS in English 1934 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Visitors to the exhibition "The State Archive Fund of the USSR and Its Role in Perestroyka" may see documents that have not been displayed for decades.

Among the archives put on view are rare photographs and manuscripts of Boris Pasternak, Marina Tsvetayev and other famous writers and poets whose works were banned and subjected to attacks from official critics.

The fact that the exposition has been mounted reflects the processes of democratisation currently under way in Soviet society.

On display are 2,000 documents from the funds of the central state repositories of the USSR and the union republics, archives of the Foreign Ministry and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

They tell the public about little-known pages in Soviet history.

For the first time on display are several documents dated to the war period against Nazi Germany (1941-1945), including Josef Stalin's secret orders.

The exhibition will be open until the end of September.

Ponomarev Denies Analogy With Prewar Policy

PM1208120188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Aug 88 First Edition p 3

[Article by international observer Manki Ponomarev in response to reader's letter: "Understandable But Unjustified Fears"—first three paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] In his letter to the editorial office reader Comrade M.I. Rozenblat from Krasnodar Kray asks in particular:

"The policy of friendship with the German bourgeoisie and German fascism pursued by the Soviet leadership through 22 June 1941 ultimately led the Soviet people to World War II and the destruction of tens of millions of human lives. But will the policy of our state's present leadership, the policy of friendship with the U.S. bourgeoisie—the most evil enemy of a new life, of freedom, equality, fraternity, and peace on our planet—not lead to a similar or even more catastrophic result? Will this policy not lead to the Soviet people's enslavement, to the destruction of their freedom, which is the main aim of the U.S. bourgeoisie and the world bourgeoisie in general?"

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer Manki Ponomarev answers this question.

Judging by the content and tone of your entire letter, Comrade Rozenblat, you are sincerely concerned with the fate of peace, the fate of the Soviet people and the peoples of the whole world. You are deeply disturbed by the processes taking place in the world arena and you are overcome by doubts—are we proceeding along the correct path, is Soviet foreign policy correct, does it accord with the realities of the present situation? Well, this concern is entirely understandable. The world is indeed at an extraordinarily complex stage of its development. The threat of nuclear war has not been removed, it really exists. And if such a war is unleashed it will lead not to the death of a particular political system or particular social formation but to the destruction of human society in general, to the complete collapse of human civilization.

But from correct premises you draw what are in my view incorrect conclusions. Several errors which you obviously do not notice have crept into your arguments. Let's try to work it out.

Yes, you are right in the sense that our prewar policy did not properly justify itself. But not in 1939, 1940, nor in 1941 was there even any talk of the Soviet people's friendship with the German bourgeoisie and Hitler's fascism. Indeed, in August 1939 a nonagression pact with Germany was signed in Moscow, not for the sake of some "friendship" with piratical German imperialism but to defer the immediate threat of war, to gain time to prepare to repel the aggressor. To this day historians are arguing about how expedient the conclusion of this pact was (for instance, I believe that it ultimately caused more harm than good). But there is no doubt that the Soviet leadership of that time pinned excessively great hopes on this pact, incorrectly assessed the situation which had taken shape by the summer of 1941, and refused to believe the obvious facts which attested to Germany's wide-scale preparations to attack the Soviet Union. The results are too well known. We did not succeed in avoiding war. In its first period we suffered severe defeats and incurred the most heavy human and material losses. Only by the heroic efforts of the entire Soviet people and at the cost of the greatest sacrifices and privations did we succeed in turning the course of events in our favor, crushing Hitler's army, and hoisting the banner of victory over Berlin.

So, Comrade Rozenblat, there should be no talk of any "friendship with the German bourgeoisie" in the prewar years. There you are undoubtedly mistaken. The attempt to mechanically transfer the situation and conditions of the late thirties and early forties to our time is also a mistake. They are absolutely incomparable and it is therefore scarcely appropriate to make any far reaching comparisons.

In general analogies are not proof. And although they are of some benefit as a rule one cannot rely on them entirely. It is not for nothing that the French even have the following saying: Any analogy is lame. But quite often in arguments a kind of equals sign is drawn between a simple comparison and historical experience. That is what you are doing too. But analogy only makes it possible to compare one phenomenon with another and only, as a rule, in their outward signs. Historical experience is a scientific understanding of phenomena, events, and facts, and the possibility of deriving practical lessons and conclusions from the past in order to use them in the present and future. But you, in drawing a parallel between the alleged "friendship with the German bourgeoisie" and the "friendship with the U.S. bourgeoisie," go no further than superficial comparison, that kind of analogy which is lame.

Of course, in its foreign policy the Soviet Union places no stake on "friendship with the U.S. bourgeoisie" and has a good idea of the threat to peace entailed by imperialism and by the militarism it generates, with their desire for social revenge, their chase after world dominion, and their reliance on force. This was authoritatively stated in M.S. Gorbachev's reports on the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and at the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. We advise you to reread carefully the international sections of these documents. In reality Soviet foreign policy is based on Lenin's idea of peaceful coexistence between states with different sociopolitical systems and of broad cooperation between countries belonging to different political systems in the economic, scientific and technical, cultural, humanitarian, and other fields. Here in recent years—since the CPSU Central Committee April 1985 Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress—the Soviet leadership has been implementing this idea on the premise of the new political thinking.

This thinking is based on a precise understanding of the fact that there are general human interests which are above class interests. These include primarily the need to protect mankind—all mankind—from the threat of destruction in a nuclear war. Everything else recedes in the face of this goal.

Does that mean that we are renouncing the class approach toward international problems? No, it does not. The Communist Party and all Soviet people have never concealed and do not conceal that they stand for social progress and national liberation for all peoples and are in solidarity with the working people of the whole world. But after all any attempts to improve the life of the working people and to ensure the fundamental interests of the working class and the right of the peoples to decide their destiny for themselves lose all meaning if we do not succeed in averting the nuclear threat and defending human civilization against the danger of global annihilation.

The foreign policy course asserted by the 27th CPSU Congress and persistently implemented by the Soviet party and state leadership is bearing beneficial fruit. Let us recall that a certain turn has been outlined away from confrontation toward normal civilized relations between the USSR and the United States. The treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles has entered into force and is being implemented, and the practical destruction of two classes of nuclear missile weapons—both Soviet and American—has begun. Ways have been determined for a political settlement around Afghanistan and Soviet troops are being withdrawn from that country. Rays of hope have appeared in other regional conflicts. The entire atmosphere of international life has become easier. The threat of war has been successfully constricted and moved back.

All this, Comrade Rozenblat, enables me to conclude that your fears are not justified. Of course, we should not succumb to illusions. We do not forget the threat to peace from imperialist militarism. So far there is no guarantee of the irreversibility of the positive processes which have begun. The new political thinking in fact makes it possible to find new opportunities for countering the policy of forces and ensuring safety for us and the whole world. And that is the main thing.

Disgraced Officials Cited on Uzbek Corruption

PM1208101388 Moscow TRUD in Russian 4 Aug 88 p 4

[Feature by Yu. Dmitriyev and Yu. Mayorov, incorporating remarks by N. Khudayberdyyev, former chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, and K. Kamalov, former first secretary of the Kara-Kalpak Uzbek Communist Party Obkom: "Atonement. Two Monologues With Foreword and Postscript"]

[Text] Outside the window the new leaves are a luxuriant green. A battered teapot steams peacefully on the table. Sunbeams play happily on the sides of ordinary tumblers, unperturbed by the bars on the windows of the special investigation prison.

The conversation flows in an almost businesslike manner. We are told calmly, as though it were somehow commonplace, about thousands and millions of rubles stolen, overreported, or hidden away. People are named whose portraits not so long ago graced "exalted" offices.... And the titles of our interlocutors too cannot be reeled off in one breath. But we shall try.

So, Hero of Socialist Labor, holder of three Orders of Lenin, the Order of the October Revolution, the Labor Red Banner, two orders of the "Badge of Honor," 8 USSR medals, and 13 large and small Exhibition of National Economic Achievements gold medals. Let us add K. Kamalov's last post—first secretary of the Kara-Kalpak Uzbek Communist Party Obkom. N. Khudayberdyyev, former chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, has just as many awards and titles. Of course, the word "former" must be added to all these honors.

True, now both of them are in the same special investigation prison. Frankly, it is not the best place for heartfelt conversations. But there is no choice, so to speak.

Just a few years ago neither Kamalov nor Khudayberdyyev could have imagined this situation even in their worst nightmares. It is understandable. Awards rained down copiously. Money too, of course. And it seemed that that was how it would always be....

A logical finale, one feels like saying. But let's not jump to conclusions. It may be a finale, but not for everyone who profited from the so-called period of stagnation. The investigation continues.

A great deal has already been said about what happened in the southern republic. Workers of the law enforcement organs and journalists have written about this. But what do the participants in these disgraceful phenomena think themselves? How do they assess these events? From the "vantage point," so to speak, of the special investigation prison?

We do not intend to justify the actions of the people under investigation. The testimony of the accused is their means of defense, so it should be approached critically. There is no doubt that a "bribery" atmosphere prevailed in the republic. But they were not nobodies. Members of the republican Communist Party Central Committee, deputies of the Supreme Soviet.... If they had wanted to, they could have resisted in some way. But they themselves made the choice, hoped they would escape punishment and get special protection "from above," and for a while this did indeed save them.

It seems useful to hear the stories of the people under investigation. It is not only the "blank spots" of history that interest us. Glasnost is indispensable here—to ensure that such things do not recur. Ever. Anywhere.

N. Khudayberdyyev:

...I have had time enough to think—I was arrested more than a year ago.... You ask about the reasons? The reasons have already been given: Star mania, money grubbing, and servility—everything that went on in our republic. To be quite frank, I can say that in Uzbekistan, as in some other regions of the country, it was essentially organized, official, "white collar" crime which developed.

Now many people want to know how there could have been such large-scale overreporting in Uzbekistan, particularly in relation to cotton. Sometimes this situation is oversimplified, and everything is reduced to the claim that Rashidov promised to procure 6 million tonnes of raw cotton annually and demanded that the plan be rigorously fulfilled, and there were machinations at local level. I would not venture to give such an unequivocal answer. Here both objective and subjective factors converge. Moreover, events in Uzbekistan cannot be separated from the general stagnation phenomena in the country in past years.

Yes, we all knew that the plan for 6 million tonnes of raw cotton was unrealistic and that the republic never harvested this amount of cotton. But neither I, as chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, nor my subordinates in the system were fully aware of the sheer scale of the overreporting. And no one was interested in this. Otherwise, back then there would have been a thorough investigation and an analysis of the conditions, for example, in the rayon and oblast. And there would have been a clear picture of the overreporting in the republic. But neither Rashidov nor Moscow was interested in the actual state of affairs regarding cotton. You yourselves know what the situation was like in those years.

All this went on under the slogan: "Cotton is a matter of honor for the republic." It is true that there were honest kolkhoz workers, team leaders, and controllers whose consciences did not allow them to resort to false reports. These people were pilloried and accused of being unpatriotic.

The lies corrupted people. Many cotton growers started to think: Why, for example, sweat blood out in the fields in the burning heat or take trouble over irrigation when "everything would be fine" with the harvest anyhow? The smart and swindling inspectors at the cotton reception centers and plants would do this with the help of cunning papers.

A mass of false payrolls.... The team leaders, accountants, and cashiers compiled whole bundles of them. They included in them people who had never worked on kolkhozes, invalids, the elderly, and even...babies. They themselves forged the signatures of these fictitious people who had excelled themselves in cotton procurement, and drew money from the cash office. And then they passed it on up the chain.

One lie leads to another, even more cynical one, which corrodes the soul. For example, during the summer our schoolchildren helped the villagers. Their names also appeared on these forged payrolls. And so the children would not know about their elders' frauds, the teachers forged the children's signatures in exchange for their own "cut."

In order to conceal the shortfall in cotton deliveries, fantastic losses during processing at the gins were invented. Or, as specialists call it, waste. This above-normative waste was 3-5 times higher than the norm. But this did not surprise anybody.

I am saying all this with full responsibility, I answer for what I say as a specialist, for I graduated in my youth from the agricultural institute in Samarkand. Why was I silent earlier? I shall answer honestly—I did not have the strength or the firmness, but mainly I lacked party principledness.

You must realize that when I was in my post, "gifts" to higher officials (at that time we called bribes gifts) were a tradition, a kind of ritual.... If you give something, even if it's stolen, it's a token of respect. It is difficult for a person who did not live or work in the republic at that time to really understand all the complexities of these criminal relationships. We thought that the person who received the "present" was indebted to you. You somehow become "closer" to him....

And now about Rashidov. He was a very influential person. He succeeded in grabbing 10 Orders of Lenin, 2 Gold Stars as hero, and was even a Lenin Prize winner?!

To argue with him was not simply dangerous—it was impossible. Fear of Rashidov was such that even after his death we kept on about our "loyalty to his behests." Now I am ashamed to say that I said the following at his funeral: "We swear, Sharaf Rashidovich, that we will carry out your orders—we shall report to Moscow that we have grown 6 million tonnes of cotton...."

We made the report.... Now I am under investigation. I compromised myself in people's eyes.

In conclusion I will say that I sincerely condemn myself for the crimes that I committed. My fate is entirely bound up with the tragedy which occurred in Uzbekistan. [Khudayberdyyev ends]

Our commentary. Not everything that we heard is indisputable. But the investigation continues. Of course, there is a desire to minimize his "personal contribution" to the emergence and flourishing of so-called negative phenomena, but a bribe is a bribe, whatever you call it.

Once again the truth is confirmed that purification is a long and difficult path. All the same, in this story you can see the corruption mechanism, an idea which is by no means limited to Uzbekistan. And which you need to know about so you can combat it more successfully.

K. Kamalov:

...When I was secretary of the party obkom I received bribes from my subordinates. I passed on some of the money to leading workers in Uzbekistan and Moscow. I voluntarily gave the rest of the valuables to the state fund.

The crimes I committed were a consequence of the system propagated by Rashidov. Not a single economic question was resolved without a bribe.

Even the selection of cadres in party organs, their awards, and other questions were resolved by money. It should not be thought that bribery existed only in Uzbekistan.

Kara-Kalpakia is a small "island" in the middle of three large "oceans"—sand and desert. The sands of the Kyzylkum and Karakum Deserts and the Ustyurt Plateau tightly encircle the autonomous republic. Climatic conditions are exceptionally difficult. In summer it is hot, and in winter there are frosts. Temperatures span a range of 60-70 degrees over the course of the year. The land is heavy and very salinized. Nothing can be produced here without first washing the soil. All this requires a lot of effort, time, and, most importantly, an enormous amount of extra work. In addition, Kara-Kalpakia is the northernmost zone in world cotton production, and conditions for cultivating this heat-loving crop are unfavorable.

In May 1963 Rashidov gave me, a young secretary of the party obkom—I was then only 36 years old—the following advice: "Enormous material resources are needed to boost the autonomous republic's economy. But to get them you need many friends in Tashkent and Moscow who will support and help you. It is essential to get delivery of equipment and other material resources within the plan and outside it and thereby lay the foundations and create a material base for boosting the economy, primarily agriculture."

From Rashidov's words I understood what having "friends" meant and that you did not go to "friends" empty-handed. He hinted that it was essential to give bribes to the right people, you can only get material resources out of someone this way. I had to decide either to leave my post as obkom first secretary or to give bribes. I made my choice.... I had to pass on gifts and bribes to officials, including those in Moscow. I knew very well that sooner or later I would have to answer for bribery.

All the questions connected with assimilating the rice complex, creating the construction industry, allocating capital investments, and ensuring material and technical supply were in the hands of ministries and departments in Moscow.

Every time I went to Moscow I called in at the capital's departments and asked for assistance for the Kara-Kalpak ASSR's rice organizations. Although my requests were never refused, but they were not met either. Promises remained unfulfilled. For the sake of the cause and for the sake of boosting the new sector I was forced to give a bribe of R90,000 to one influential person. (Because the investigation is still going on, we are not giving specific names—Editors' Note)

The scattered nature of the territory, the remoteness of the supply organizations, situated near rail stations, the absence of roads, and the absence of transportation made it extremely difficult to transport all the freight received. In these conditions, in evasion of the existing USSR Gosstroy, Gosplan, and Gosbank regulations, we decided to compile planning and technical documentation in sections and finance construction of a railroad through the republican bank. We got the republic's Council of Ministers to include in the contract work plan a quota of R500,000 per year for the USSR Ministry of Transport Construction—allegedly for constructing sidings for facilities we had simply invented. But in fact we built a main railroad. The question arose about where to get the rails, sleepers, and ferroconcrete bridge structures, how to compile the planning documents, whom to instruct to construct this complicated and crucial project, and what the railroad would be like.... Especially in Kara-Kalpak conditions....

We found a way out—we found a "friend" in one of the Moscow ministries who each year allotted equipment in short supply to the Kara-Kalpak ASSR outside the framework of the plan and without allocation orders. Bribes amounting to R100,000 were given for these "services."

In the early 1970's I called on the USSR Gosplan. They said: "You live in the tropics, it is hot where you are, it'll be a long time before you get gas supplies." I looked for other ways to resolve this acute problem. I made inquiries at organizations in the capital. The usual red tape. When I gave "gifts" to an influential person, instructions were given to the Leningrad Planning Institute to immediately begin planning and providing gas supplies for the autonomous republic out of general quotas. And everything went smoothly. The republic got its gas.

Rashidov himself knew about all these "underground" activities. He loved to put forward economic slogans, citing the prestige and instructions of Brezhnev himself.

A large group of people was drawn into the criminal economic activities and many state resources were wasted. The total runs into millions.

Cadres were selected not according to their political or professional qualities, but according to personal devotion, friendship, hometown ties, protectionism, nepotism, and so on. Rashidov hardly listened to the people, he listened more to the gossips and toadies. People's fates depended on gossip.

Rashidov would confide in me. We were even related. In his numerous conversations with me he talked about his great ties with Brezhnev. I passed Rashidov bribes totaling hundreds of thousands of rubles.

I would like to say that I sincerely repent of the crimes I committed and I condemn my former mistakes. As the leader of the autonomous republic, I am primarily responsible for all the negative phenomena which occurred under my leadership. Many of my subordinates gave me bribes, but they were people who were dependent on me, and in many cases they were forced to do this. And this must be taken into account in the interests of objectivity. [Kamalov ends]

Our commentary. In certain situations even the protagonists tried to look like obedient servants.... Look how fine those obedient servants were! This is the psychology of "stagnation"—using bribes allegedly in the name of the people. Nonetheless, yet another immoral aspect of bureaucratism is seen in Kamalov's story, for all that it is somewhat one-sided—the virtual encouragement of criminal acts. Bureaucracy and crime are two eternal "friends".... Administrative-edict methods and the absence of glasnost gave ample scope to dishonest people. While pretending to champion others you could not overlook lining your own pocket. It suited both those who gave and those who took....

Hearing these stories gave rise to complex feelings. Why is this purification happening so late for them? Events seen and heard earlier, in particular in the summer of 1983, came to mind. One night a special group of workers from the prosecutor's office flew out suddenly to Uzbekistan. Muzafarov, chief of the Struggle Against Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation Service in the Bukhara Oblast Internal Affairs Administration, was arrested there for systematic bribery. During the search large sums of money, valuables, and precious items were discovered. In short, millions....

But writing about this was not recommended at that time. Today it is clear why.... It is quite possible that if Muzafarov's "prominent" protectors had been named back during that "stagnation" period, it would not have been possible to hold the interviews in the special investigation prison today. And we think we would not have heard these monologues. But, as the saying goes, better late than never. Now the republic is engaged in a serious and uncompromising struggle to improve and cleanse itself and to revive Leninist principles in all spheres of life and work. The industrious and honest Uzbek people will not rest until they have removed those who, as R. Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, said at the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, grabbed a fatter slice and are now clinging on to it. Today the embezzlers of public funds and deceivers are getting what they deserve. People are regaining their lost belief in the truth and the triumph of justice.

Vorotnikov, Ligachev Sign Official's Obituary

PM1508104188 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p 6

[Obituary of V.N. Uvachan]

[Excerpts] Doctor of Historical Sciences Professor Vasiliy Nikolayevich Uvachan, adviser to the RSFSR Council of Ministers and member of the CPSU since 1940, died 8 August 1988 at the age of 70.

V.N. Uvachan was born in 1917 in the village of Kresty in Irkutsk Oblast's Katangskiy Rayon. [passage omitted]

V.I. Vorotnikov, Ye.K. Ligachev, G.P. Razumovskiy, V.P. Orlov, L.B. Yermin, F.A. Tabeyev, A.V. Aleksankin, L.A. Gorshkov, V.I. Kazakov, T.N. Levina, O.I. Lobov, N.N. Maslennikov, N.T. Trubilin, Ye.M. Chekharin, O.S. Shenin, V.N. Sergiyenko, A.A. Bobrovnikov, V.F. Konnov, I.I. Zarubin, V.V. Uvachan, and V.Ye. Chepalov.

Obituary of Deputy Minister Podobedov

PM1208141988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 88 Morning Edition p6

[Obituary of Sergey Vasilyevich Podobedov, USSR first deputy minister of installation and special construction work]

[Excerpts] Sergey Vasilyevich Podobedov, member of the CPSU, a major specialist and organizer in the field of capital construction, and USSR first deputy minister of installation and special construction work, died 2 August 1988 at the age of 70 after a long and serious illness.

S.V. Podobedov was born on 1 October 1918 in the village of Bykovka, Ryazan Oblast, of a peasant family. [passage omitted]

N.N. Slyunkov, Yu.P. Batalin, V.K. Gusev, L.A. Voronin, A.G. Melnikov, V.F. Isayev, B.V. Bakin, N.V. Lemayev, N.M. Olshanskiy, Yu.A. Bespalov, M.I. Busygin, V.A. Bykov, V.I. Reshetilov, S.V. Bashilov, A.A. Babenko, A.N. Shchepetilnikov, V.A. Brezhnev, A.M. Yakovlev, V.M. Serov, V.Z. Borisovskiy, Yu.A. Belyakov, I.D. Pisarev, V.K. Lukinov, G.A. Khokhlov.

Fires Continue To Rage in West Siberia

LD1208173188 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; Tyumen correspondent I. Tratsevskiy report]

[Text] The pine forests of Nizhevartovsk Rayon and Peiuralye and the cranberry and cowberry swamps of the Central Ob region are on fire. The reindeer pastures of the Yamal tundra are burning. We have not previously had such great fires of such destructive force and on such a large scale. Their number in the oblast is approaching

3,000. During the entire hot summer not a drop of rain has fallen. The taiga has dried out. Virtually all fires have been caused through man's fault, his irresponsibility.

The scale of the disaster would have been far less if it had been confronted in good time by everyone together. Unfortunately, the administrators are, to put it bluntly, sluggish to react to forest rangers' requests and the decisions of local soviets. People and equipment are being allocated in insufficient numbers and not in time. After all, in such a situation one must act quickly and in concert, because in a fire each minute counts.

Through certain sections of the forest tracts the fire, driven by the wind, is tearing along at the speed of a train: 40-50 km per hour. The underestimation of the situation is already bearing its bitter fruit: The raw materials base of the country's major integrated logging-lumbering enterprises is burning. The power lines and remote control lines between oil and gas fields have been damaged. For reasons of safety, the Tyumen oil recovery workers have been obliged to bring the wells to a standstill. In a few rayons of the Khanti-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug a critical situation has arisen. Teams of forest firemen and parachutists are hurrying to our aid from all over the country. It is a very great pity that, as before, we are coming out to fight the fire with shovels, and in the best case with dynamite and bulldozers.

The commission for the struggle against natural disasters attached to Tyumen Oblispolkom is doing everything possible to prevent the fires from spreading.

Trains Collide at Bataysk; No Injuries

LD1208135388 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The passenger 181 Anapa-Moscow train and the 256 Novorosiysk-Kharkov trains, which ran in the same direction, came into collision on the Bataysk station of the North Caucasian railway at 9.05 A.M. today. The cause of the collision was the train 181's passing by the red signal, a TASS correspondent has learned at the Ministry of Communications.

Nobody was hurt. Railway traffic did not stop. The two trains were delayed for two hours.

A commission of the Ministry of Communications is investigating into the circumstances of the accident.

Black, Azov Seas Polluted; Some Beaches Closed

AU1208171088 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 6 Aug 88 p 4

[M. Bidnyna, I. Lukash, M. Khriyenko, and O. Chernetskyy report on the situation on the Black and Azov Sea beaches: "Who Has Barred the Sea"]

[Excerpts] Likes and dislikes are, as they say, very personal, and as far as vacationing is concerned, ideas vary. Some people are attracted by mountains, others prefer forests, but most vacationers turn their eyes toward the seacoasts. So now that the last of the summer months has come, they are preparing for their long cherished trip. However, their joyous expectations are marred by numerous rumors: "It is said that the Azov Sea has been barred" and "Do you know that swimming in the Black Sea has been banned?" These statements lead to telephone calls and letters to the editorial board with the same question: "Is it true?" What is the situation on the Black and Azov Sea beaches? The newspaper's staff and non-staff correspondents were commissioned to clarify this point.

In Zhdanov, Gorispolkom Chairman O.M. Zozulya said:

"Many RADYANSKA UKRAINA readers certainly know about the accidental discharge of sewage that occurred in our city early last month. In connection with this matter, the oblast sanitary and epidemiological station resolved to close all beaches along the 172 km of Donetsk Oblast coast until the end of the current season. Although the situation is normalizing, there are no grounds for optimism. After all, all of the recreation areas along the Azov seacoast are overcrowded. Most buildings are deprived of public utilities, and for this reason heavy rains wash rubbish and other dirt down into the sea. Large amounts of sewage are also being discharged by Zhdanov enterprises. Thus, the sanitation of the Azov Sea depends primarily on the sanitation of the coast."

In Zaporozhye Oblast, Berdyansk city chief medical officer M.I. Hordiyenko said:

"The rumor about the ban on swimming imposed in Zhdanov has spread through the oblast with the speed of lightning. Now is the vacation season, and everyone is looking forward to going to the coast. Many people are worried about their children who have gone to young pioneers' camps on the Azov seacoast. This is because our rayon is directly contiguous to Donetsk Oblast, in which swimming is not recommended. However, the analysis of water made systematically by Berdyansk sanitary services at 24 points—on the beaches, within the city, on the peninsula, and in the numerous young pioneers' camps—proves that there are no grounds for banning swimming in the sea. The trouble may come not from the sea, but from the land. The point is that some 500,000 persons have now crowded the city, but municipal and public catering services have calculated on less than one-third this number. As a result of this, there are cases of disease. [passage omitted]

"The situation in Yakimovskiy Rayon is somewhat better. [passage omitted] Like in Berdyansk, the cases of mass fish asphyxiation and their appearance on the shore also occurred in the rayon, but appropriate services removed the dead fish in a timely manner." [passage omitted]

In Kherson, Oblispolkom Chairman L.I. Velichko answered the readers' questions as follows:

"The sanitary service does not recommend swimming along the Azov seacoast. All beaches on the Black Sea shore are functioning normally. The coast is overcrowded, and for this reason the access by private transportation has been restricted."

In Yalta, in the Crimean Oblast, Gorispolkom Deputy Chairman A.A. Voloshin said:

"All eight beaches in our city are functioning normally. [passage omitted] I must say that, as of 1 August, the access to Yalta by private car has been restricted because the city is very overcrowded." [passage omitted]

The situation in Nikolayev was described by Oblispolkom Deputy Chairman Yu.V. Popovich:

"All recreation bases along the entire coast from Ochakov to Koblevoye are functioning normally, and swimming is allowed in all sectors. On some days the level of water pollution is close to the permitted limit." [passage omitted]

In Odessa, Gorispolkom Deputy Chairman V.I. Zhuravko said:

"Statistical figures show that in the peak of summer nearly 70,000 vacationers arrive in Odessa daily. Of course, all are attracted by the sea. This year our visitors have had somewhat bad luck. Some Odessa beaches have been closed because of the ecological troubles brought about by the chronic lag in the construction of water supply facilities and the sewer system. [passage omitted] Next summer Odessa beaches will be ecologically more hospitable."

Briefs

Soccer Union Formed

Moscow August 12 TASS—The USSR Council of Ministers jointly with the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the Young Communist League endorsed the proposal of the USSR state sports committee on creating the USSR Soccer Union. A relevant resolution was distributed today. The soccer union will group leading players, coaches and referees. The union's constituent conference is to take place soon. The document covers nearly every sports-related area, whether national teams or clubs are involved. It is planned that the clubs will go fully self-accounting and self-financing. They can set up specialised shops, cafes, produce sports souvenirs and advertisement materials. The question of the provision of pensions for sportsmen was considered and measures envisaged to provide work for sportsmen after the end of their sporting careers. [Excerpts] [*LD1208201088 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 12 Aug 88*]

Journals' Printing Totals

Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Manyakin, deputy USSR minister of communications, says print-runs of journals will be no less than last year, but will be set. Last year, the total print-run of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA was 17,600,000 copies; of OGONEK, 1,780,000 copies. Both will have the same circulation this year, but if there is enough paper the subscriptions could be increased. NOVYY MIR is to have a print-run of 1,130,000 copies, and the editorial office announced a 1,100,000 subscription. About one-quarter of subscription copies are distributed through the post office, while 75 percent are distributed through public organizations such as schools and factories, so people should not despair if there are no more subscriptions to be had as the journals can be obtained through these organizations and libraries. Last year only 270,000 copies of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA went on retail sale, whereas this year there will be 820,000 copies. Individual subscriptions have been restricted to permit greater access through libraries. Thus, glasnost is not being squeezed, but rather enhanced. [Summary] [*LD1308035488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0335 GMT 12 Aug 88*]

Public Computer Center

The computer center at the All-Union Scientific and Research Institute of Supply and Demand has opened a salon to provide state enterprises, cooperatives, and the public with computer services and to help in marketing practices. As T. Komarova reports, although there is a charge, on weekends children come to the computer center to play computer games. On weekdays, however, adults are taught marketing practices: market studies, advertising and sales stimuli, pricing, and so on. While in the United States around $100 billion is spent annually on market research and advertising, the USSR spends only 250 million [currency not specified]. As V.I. Bolshakov, head of the computer center, says: They have been operating for a month and have just three contracts with organizations. One customer is the executive committee of the Kalininskiy Rayon of Moscow, which is interested in the services sector. The findings indicate that the rayon's enterprises have the resources to double the number of its services. [Summary] [*LD1408011088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Aug 88 LD*]

Economic

Job Retraining, Placement Centers Established

LD1108115188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] One of our important social services is undergoing a period of reorganization. Instead of labor exchanges, centers for job placement, retraining, and vocational orientation for the populace are appearing. These centers now face great tasks due to the beginning of the process of releasing blue- and white-collar workers from their posts as a result of the changeover of enterprises to financial autonomy and new conditions of wage payments.

According to the forecast, up to the year 2000 there will be about 15-17 million people released from their posts. On the staff of the center in Moscow's Zhelenodorozhniy Rayon there are six people. They include the secretary of a commission for assistance in organizing work for persons returning from places of imprisonment.

What is the system of indicators for the work of the center? Indicators will include efficiency of the work force being sent to enterprises, staff turnover, growth in labor productivity, and reductions in the time taken to arrange jobs. The centers will become contemporaray institutions where electronic hardware will be used to help the individual. It has been estimated that manual work will become impossible in a town with a population of over 300,000.

The most complex function for us will be the retraining of specialists. We did not do that previously, says Comrade (Rudev), deputy chief of the labor resources administration under the USSR State Committee for Labor. But our most promising function is the coordination of the activity of staff services, which are as yet dispersed. Staff planning is to be carried out, as is the wider introduction of the Ulyanovsk method of efficient utilization of the labor force, thanks to which up to 50 percent of people applying for redundancy take them back. It must be explained that redundancy is not in the interests of the citizen, the enterprise, or society.

Problems in Capital Construction Viewed

LD1308014888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1545 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (TASS)—TASS commentator Yuriy Stepanov writes:

Strengthening the base of the construction industry is one of the key trends in the economic development of the USSR. This was said at the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee held in July. However, in implementing a drive for the considerable expansion of housing and other social and amenity facilities, the Soviet Union has encountered difficulties in supplies of construction materials, technology, and equipment. In many cases this is repetition of certain errors in the past.

For many years capital construction was ensured by a dynamic increase in the country's social and economic potential. In the seventies there was a noticeable drop in the rates of increments, investment, and the bringing in of new fixed assets. The completion time for construction projects was two to three times higher than the norm, and the dissipation of financial and material and technical resources on a large number of facilities being built simultaneously increased.

The sector is faced with great tasks in the present 5-year plan (1986-1990). Growth of 23 percent in the volume of construction work throughout the country has been planned. Guaranteeing corresponding development in the material and technical base of construction is extremely complicated. A substantial reduction in construction in the outlay of all resources has therefore taken on great significance in the present conditions.

The new economic mechanism in the sector is being formed from the initial overall concept of fundamentally restructuring the management of the economy. The tendancy to make construction more expensive is dissipating, an anti-expenditure mechanism is being put into operation, and resource-saving is becoming economically advantageous for all participants in the investment process—clients, planners, and builders.

This policy is producing its first results. In 1986-1987, for example, the growth in assimilation of fixed assets amounted on an average annual calculation to 5.6 percent, over 3.1 percent in previous years. The number of loss-making organizations decreased 1.6 times, for the first time in the last 3 years the profit plan was fulfilled, viability increased, and a halt was put to drops in the output-capital ratio.

In addition to mothballing construction work already begun, there is a reduction in embarking upon construction. Of late, definite moves have occurred here. If in 1986 construction of 3.7 thousand facilities began, in 1987 it was 3.2 thousand. This trend is continuing this year. A halt in implementing obsolete projects will permit resources to be rationally maneuvred and concentrated in priority directions for the Soviet economy.

Expanding cooperation with foreign partners in the sphere of strengthening the construction industry's base will be of substantial significance for the consistent development of the sector. The links between Soviet organizations and enterprises in the socialist countries are well organized, and talks are under way to strengthen business contacts with Western firms as well.

Official Views 'Highly Developed' Construction

LD1408175388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0801 GMT 14 Aug 88

[From the "Time, Events, People" program, presented by Vladimir Markin]

[Text] Every year on the second Sunday in August, the builders mark their professional holiday. The time has passed—let us hope for good—when on these days, executive workers in the sector in their festival speeches reported millions of square meters of housing being commissioned ahead of time while millions of people in different areas of the country tried, in their communal apartments, to guess who these above-plan meters were destined for and what kind of plans these were that were constantly being overfulfilled while improvements in living conditions were constantly put off. And now, when serious changes are underway in our country in all spheres of life, there has already been a significant decrease in such speeches. Many are very well aware that in these complex tasks of restructuring, not words but action is needed. It is pleasant to note that there have been specific moves in construction, too.

Our correspondent, Aleksandr Belotserkovets, on the eve of builders' day met with Leonid Alekseyevich Bibin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosstroy. Here is their conversation:

[Begin recording] [Bibin] Construction is now a major, highly developed sector of the national economy which employs more than 12 million people. The builders' contribution to the country's national economy amounts to around 12 percent. Dealing with major social and economic tasks facing the country and the democratization of Soviet society required that construction workers fundamentally restructure their work. The measures adopted by the party Central Committee and the government have led to definite positive changes and permitted a degree of improvement in the state of affairs in this sector and the enhancement of the human factor.

Over the last 2 years of this 5-year plan, there has been increased assimilation of fixed assets, the main indicator in construction workers' work. Many building collectives have begun to fulfill the plan steadily and the annual average growth in labor productivity has doubled. The sector's financial situation has improved. In 1987, the number of loss-making organizations fell 1.6 times; and for the first time in the last 3 years, the profit equaled that planned. Viability increased significantly; and the drop in the output-capital ratio halted. This was achieved by improving and applying new forms of labor organization, such as collective contracting and internal production financial autonomy based on a system of check spending, the transfer to full financial autonomy and self-financing, and the expansion of contract relations.

[Belotserkovets] Leonid Alekseyevich, it is well known that at present particular attention in being given to solving the housing problem and to construction in the social sphere—of kindergartens, day care centers, schools, hospitals, cinemas. How is the solving of this problem going? What has it already been possible to do?

[Bibin] You are right. In the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan, 4.4 million new apartments were built. Such rates were never reached in previous 5-year plans. Apartments are more comfortable and their designs are more convenient. However, the problem remains. Although the situation in housing construction has begun to change for the better—as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev reported to the 19th party conference—it remains extremely tense; and people wait years for an apartment. This is true. The scale of housing construction which we must aim for at the end of the eighties and in the nineties is huge. Over three 5-year plans more than 35 million apartments and houses must be built. It is also planned to increase considerably construction of schools, kindergartens, hospitals, polyclinics, clubs, and other facilities for the social and cultural sphere. An unusual decision has been made to fulfill these important tasks: in particular, the amount of housing construction using finances intended for capital construction has increased, and that using finances earned by labor collectives which have gone over to financial autonomy, too. Practical measures have been taken to develop cooperative and particularly individual housing construction. The measures and decisions that are being taken are meeting everywhere with the approval and support of the Soviet people.

[Beolserkovets] The significant increase in the scale of housing construction has resulted in shortages of materials becoming chronic at a number of sites. What is being done to bring the construction materials industry to the level required?

[Bibin] In recent years, the production of sections for prefabricated housing, cement, linoleum, and other building materials has grown by 10 to 20 percent. However, this is not enough. There is a big lag. For this reason, in accordance with Politburo instructions, an integrated program has been formulated to increase production of construction materials and items sharply. A number of relevant decisions have been made by the USSR Government. In the next 2 to 3 years it is essential to increase production of the main construction materials by 5 to 30 percent and two- to threefold in the case of certain types of construction, especially house-building items. In the following 5-year plan we must get rid of the remaining shortages. Here, too, there is much to be done; all the possibilities available on the spot in the oblasts, krays, and republics must be used. Much depends, too, on the machine builders, who are pledged to provide the construction industry with construction materials and enterprises in the construction industry wth the most up-to-date technology and equipment.

The builders are faced with responsible production, economic, and social tasks, and we are all faced with carrying out specific work in such a way as to meet them fully and to make a worthy contribution to the country's social and economic development.

Esteemed comrade builders, allow me to congratulate you and your families on our professional holiday, builders' day, and to wish you great success in your work and lives and in all your constructive affairs, which are so important to all the people. [end recording]

Leningrad To Increase Consumer Goods Production

LD1308115188 Moscow TASS in English 1108 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Leningrad August 13 TASS—TASS correspondent Mark Monusov reports:

The district soviet of the Kalinin district of Leningrad, one of the biggest administrative districts of the city with a population of about half a million, has adopted a program under which all the wages of workers of the enterprises located there should be compensated by 1990 by the production of consumer goods.

"We hope to reduce in this way the shortage of many products", Oleg Belyakov, head of the executive committee of the Kalinin district soviet, told TASS. "Unfortunately, the soviet has no material resources of its own. This problem is to be resolved in the course of the reform of the Soviet political system started in this country. Ministries are actually the monopoly holders of the funds. However, the soviet coordinated its plans with some 10 union ministries whose enterprises are located on our territory. They took our plans into consideration. For instance, the Lenin optical-mechanical firm perceptibly increased the output of small-size Lomo-Kompakt photo cameras which are popular with the consumers. By the way, the Lomo-Kompakt cameras are willingly bought by many foreign countries. The reform of the political system should enhance the authority of local soviets and to fully put on an economic basis their relations with the management of enterprises. [sentence as received] Even today we make enterprises take into consideration our plans because the soviet reflects the interests of the population".

The TASS correspondent was told at the executive committee of the city soviet that Leningrad produces annually 11 billion roubles worth of consumer goods, while trade turnover is a little more than half this sum. The rest of the consumer goods are sent to other regions. Economic services of the executive committee of the soviet propose to hold in the future wholesale fairs before sending goods to the national market, with a view to meeting more fully the demand of Leningrad trade organizations. They believe that such practices will consolidate economic independence of the country's regions. Besides, this will considerably reduce economically unprofitable backhaul.

Talyzin Attends Consumer Society Meeting

LD1208230688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today the Seventh Assembly of the Council of the Union of Consumer Societies was held in Moscow. There was a detailed analysis of the work of all links in the consumer cooperative movement. It was stressed that the rate of development of its main branches has increased, but there has not been a radical breakthrough in its work. The assembly's participants noted that the process of restructuring the consumer cooperative movement can only be speeded up by broad democratization and the renewal of the cooperative nature of the consumer societies and their independence.

The assembly passed a decision on convening the 12th Congress of the USSR Consumer Cooperative Movement. It has been decided to hold it in March 1989 in Moscow.

Comrade Talyzin took part in the assembly's work.

Briefs

Joint UK Communication Enterprise

Moscow August 14 TASS—A Soviet-British communication enterprise will be able to provide most up-to-date electrocommunication services. Its founders—the Moscow City Telephone Network Association and the British firm GPT (General Electric Company—Plessy Telecommunications Limited)—have announced the intention to create such an enterprise, IZVESTIYA writes. The British firm won an international contest held by Moscow communication workers who were looking for a business partner. The new joint firm is going to equip and use a network of the most up-to-date coin-box telephones with payment for telephone calls with the help of credit cards of foreign banks or special cards for telephone calls paid for in advance with foreign currency. Not only foreigners, but also Soviet organizations having hard currency funds will be able to use this communication network. The firm intends to create a general-purpose coin-box telephone for any coins, both Soviet and foreign ones. [Text] [*LD1508013388 Moscow TASS in English 1216 GMT 14 Aug 88 LD*]

Agricultural

Volgograd Grain Sales Hit 2 Million Metric Tons

PM1508104588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[PRAVDA and TASS correspondents' reports under general heading "In the Country's Fields"]

[Excerpt] Volgograd—The last combines are leaving the grain fields of the southern rayons of Volgograd Oblast. By yesterday morning the workers had sold the state 2 million metric tons of grain. Wheat accounts for more than 1.3 million of it, 63 percent of which is strong and valuable grain. [passage omitted]

Agricultural Developments for 10-12 Aug

LD1308042488 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 10-12 August. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

10 August:

In Belorussia grain has been harvested on more than 1 million hectares to date; the yields are lower than last year in many places. (0400)

Grain harvesting in southern Belorussia has ended, while in Gomel Oblast three-quarters of the area sown has been harvested. (1300)

As of today 2 million metric tons of grain have been threshed by farms in Lithuania. So far two-thirds of the grain harvest has been collected. (1300)

11 August:

In less than a month grain crops and cereals have been threshed on just over 900,000 hectares in Ryazan Oblast. (0204)

The harvesting of millet has begun in Saratov Oblast. A good harvest has been achieved on many farms. (0600)

Don mechanizers today completed the cutting and threshing of cereal on an area of nearly 2.5 million hectares. More than 2.6 million tonnes of grain—mainly strong and valuable varieties—have been delivered to procurement points. (1000)

In North Ossetiyan ASSR 55,000 tonnes of barley and wheat have been delivered by farmers to receiving stations, thus fulfilling the grain sales plan. (1300)

On Kazakhstan virgin lands northern oblast farms started threshing barley, oats, and peas today. (1300)

Pri-Amurye farmers have begun harvesting corn, the main feed crop in the region. (1300)

Combiners have stopped work in the Karbarda-Balkar ASSR. Every hectare has produced 7 quintals more than last year, and the grain average is 36 quintals per hectare. Strong and valuable grain made up more than 60 percent of planned procurement. Above-plan grain sales are continuing. (2130)

12 August:

The farmers of Stavropol Kray have fulfilled their obligations for sales of grain to the state, delivering 2 million metric tons of grain, including more than 1.5 million metric tons of valuable and strong types of wheat. Sovetskiy, Budennovskiy, Ipatovskiy, and Apanasenkovskiy rayons have made the greatest contributions. (0104)

Mass sowing of winter rye is under way at the farms of the Mari ASSR which has set out to increase this crop. Their efforts show promise. After all, during the severe drought that occurred this summer the crop farmers obtained 40-50 quintals of rye per hectare on many plots. (1300)

The grain harvest has begun in the mountainous Naryn Oblast of Kirghizia, where the first yields show a good harvest with 35 quintals per hectare, 3 quintals up on last year. (2130)

Scientific

'Molniya-1' Communications Satellite Launched

LD1308082488 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0757 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug (TASS)—The launch of the next communication satellite "Molniya-1" by the carrier rocket "Molniya" was carried out in the Soviet Union on Friday. The communication satellite "Molniya-1" is intended to guarantee the operation of the system of long-distance telephone-telegraph radio communication and also the broadcast of programs by USSR central television to points of the "Orbita" network.

The satellite has been placed in a high elliptical orbit with the apogee of 40,754 kilometers in the northern hemisphere and perigee of 617 kilometers in the southern hemisphere. The initial period of revolution of the satellite is 12 hours 18 minutes, the orbita inclination is 62.9 degrees.

'Progress-37' Completes Flight 12 Aug

LD1208154388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (TASS)—A TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Center:

The flight of the automatic transport craft "Progress-37," launched on 19 July 1988, has been completed. On 21 July, the craft was docked with the manned complex "Mir." The work scheduled for the joint flight period, including unloading, pumping in drinking water, and topping up the station's fuel tanks with fuel and oxidizer, has been fully completed. The craft's power plant was used to correct the orbit of the complex.

At 1232 Moscow time [0832 GMT] today, on command from the Flight Control Center, the craft "Progress- 37" separated from the "Mir" orbital complex. After switching on its braking motor, it then entered the dense layers of the atmosphere and ceased to exist.

Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are continuing their work on board the "Mir" complex. Today they conducted experiments on studying the earth's atmosphere and made observations and took pictures of specific sectors of land and ocean. Both cosmonauts feel well. The flight continues normally.

News Conference on Soviet-Afghan Mission

LD1208153888 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova reporting from the cosmonauts training centre:

There are 24 experiments in the programme of the joint Soviet-Afghan space mission, which will blast off at 8 a.m. Moscow time on August 29, General Andriyan Nikolayev, first deputy head of the cosmonauts training centre, told a news conference in the star city, near Moscow, today.

One of the Soviet-Afghan crews will set out on an international expedition to the permanent orbital complex Mir. Here the cosmonauts will be welcomed by "space veterans" Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, who are nearly eight months on the orbit.

Andriyan Nikolayev presented to the journalists the international crews. The first crew comprises USSR pilot cosmonaut Vladimir Lyakhov, physician Valeriy Polyakov and Afghan cosmonaut researcher Captain Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad. The second one consists of USSR pilot cosmonaut Anatoliy Berezovoy, physician German Arzamazov, Afghan cosmonaut researcher Colonel Muhammed Dauran Gholam Ma'sum.

General Nikolayev said an important place in the planned experiments is occupied by remote sounding of the earth from the orbital complex Mir to obtain space photos of the territory of Afghanistan, including high-altitude and hard-to-reach areas, with the use of on-board equipment.

"The policy of our medicine today," Valeriy Polyakov said, "is to have a family doctor in every household. The one who will fly will become the family doctor of the cosmonauts. We believe that the crew is one family. We see our task in ensuring that everyone in the orbit is healthy, fit, works efficiently and is in good spirits. Besides, the expedition programme includes medical-biological experiments. Here, of course, the doctor must take the lion's share of work."

Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad and Muhammad Dauran Gholam Ma'sum asked to convey through the news agency of the Soviet Union the wishes of peace, calm blue skies and happiness to their relatives.

Doctor To Remain Aboard 'Mir'

LD1208164488 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] There's been a press conference at stellar town, near Moscow, of participants in a joint Soviet-Afghan space mission slated for later in the month. [passage omitted]

In the course of a week-long joint flight with the main crew of the Mir complex, Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, the visiting crew is to execute 24 research experiments to study the natural resources of the USSR and Afghanistan, and also dealing with biology and medicine.

After the program is completed, the doctor of the visiting crew is to stay on onboard the Mir together with Titov and Manarov, who've been in space for over 7 months.

Aerospace Experiment Begins in Tajikistan

LD1308132088 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Dushanbe August 13 TASS—The international aerospace experiment "Tien Shan—Intercosmos '88" has gone under way in two Soviet Central Asian republics—Tajikistan and Kirghizia. It involves the USSR Academy of Sciences and the "Earth's Crust" commission of the Academies of Sciences of Socialist Countries.

The research programme was joined today by international research teams at the Fayzaban seismic test range in Tien Shan, Tajikistan. The aim of the experiment is to find the most effective methods to assess the current condition of the geological environment. This will enable to come close to forecasting such calamaties as earthquakes, cave-ins, landslides and soil erosion.

Three natural sites, representing mobile regions of different types, were chosen for carrying out the experiment, which includes taking pictures and measurements from the Soviet orbital station Mir, unmanned satellites and aircraft. Taking part in ground observations are scientists from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

PRAVDA Carries Levchenko Obituary

PM1208104388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p 6

[Obituary of Anatoliy Semenovich Levchenko]

[Text] Hero of the Soviet Union Anatoliy Semenovich Levchenko, meritorious test pilot of the USSR, cosmonaut of the USSR, and member of the CPSU since 1965, died 6 August 1988 after a serious illness.

A.S. Levchenko was born 21 May 1941 in the city of Krasnokutsk in Kharkov Oblast. In 1959 he entered the Chernigov Higher Air School for Pilots and, after he had graduated, served in the line units of the Soviet Army Air Force. In 1971 A.S. Levchenko graduated from the test pilots school and was involved in testing new aircraft and aviation equipment until the end of his life. He demonstrated outstanding flying skill in this work and proved to be a highly qualified specialist and fearless man. He flew 80 types and modifications of aircraft and did a lot of work to improve their performance and step up their combat effectiveness. A.S. Levchenko was awarded the honorary title "Meritorious Test Pilot of the USSR" for services in the field of testing new aviation equipment.

As one of the highly qualified test pilots, he was involved in research into space technology, and in 1981 was included in a test cosmonaut detachment. In December 1987 A.S. Levchenko took part in a flight on the "Soyuz TM-4" spaceship and the "Mir" orbital space station. He was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union and the honorary title of "Cosmonaut Pilot of the USSR" for his successful space flight.

A.S. Levchenko was distinguished for his personal courage, broad outlook and professionalism, and high principledness. He enjoyed the well-deserved love and great respect of those who knew him.

The bright memory of A.S. Levchenko, a true son of the Communist Party and the Soviet people and successful test pilot and cosmonaut of our country, will remain in Soviet people's hearts.

V.I. Vorotnikov, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, Yu.D. Maslyukov, D.T. Yazov, O.D. Baklanov, A.I. Lukyanov, I.S. Belousov, I.S. Silayev, O.S. Belyakov, I.A. Larin, V.K. Mesyats, A.S. Systsov, V. Kh. Doguzhiyev, V.V. Kozlov, A.N. Yefimov, A.A. Maksimov, A.N. Gerashchenko, K.K. Vasilchenko, V.P. Glushko, V.A. Shatalov, P.I. Klimuk, G.S. Titov, I.P. Volk, M.Kh. Manarov, V.G. Titov

Military

Akhromeyev Addresses General Staff Party Aktiv

PM1208184988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 88 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent Maj I. Sas report: "Restructuring Demands Action. Meeting of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Party Aktiv"]

[Text] The decisions of the the 19th all-union party conference and the the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum gave a powerful fillip to the activity of Army and Navy party organizations to deepen the processes of restructuring and make it irreversible. What is the best and most efficient way to implement the guidelines of the party conference and the plenum? What are the specific tasks of each Communist with regard to implementing them?

These questions formed the basis of a meeting of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff. The report was delivered by Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister.

He noted that by virtue of its status as the center, which elaborates the most important questions of building the Armed Forces in accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and organizes and coordinates the implementation of decisions, the General Staff must be the initiator of restructuring in the Army and the Navy.

The speaker dwelt in detail on a number of fundamental guidelines and conclusions of the party conference and the CPSU Central Committee plenum concerning the international situation. In particular, it was said that as a result of the measures taken by the CPSU Central Committee, it has been possible to reduce the threat of war and to begin a transition in relations between countries with different social systems from confrontation toward mutual understanding and talks on reducing weapons of mass destruction. At the same time the conference stressed that the world situation remains complex and contradictory. Imperialist sources of military tension continue to exist and no guarantee of the irreversibility of positive processes has yet been secured. Therefore, the attention paid to strengthening the country's defense cannot be slackened. The demand to ensure a reliable defense capability has been, is, and will continue to be mandatory for us.

The party conference's fundamentally new guidelines regarding the gearing of defense building to qualitative parameters with regard to equipment, military science, and Armed Forces personnel assume special importance today. What does this mean in specific relation to the activity of the General Staff's Communists? How is defense building to be conducted so as to guarantee reliable security for the Soviet state and its allies, in strict accordance with our defensive military doctrine? The report made a profound analysis of these problems. The following spoke in the debate: Colonel Generals B. Omelichev, V. Mikhaylov, and S. Kolosov; Colonel K. Kuzminov; Colonel General K. Kobets; Coonell Ye. Rybyak; Colonel General B. Korobushin; Colonels P. Kuzin and V. Kuchin; and Lieutenant General B. Strelchenko.

The main speaker and the other speakers were unanimous that the restructuring of the activity of the General Staff's Communists is still proceeding in a contradictory fashion and with difficulty. The new thinking is not finding it easy to become part of our life. Old stereotypes are making themselves felt.

On questions of military building, in a number of cases in the past we were guided by ideas which ultimately were by no means always the best, and sometimes these dragged us into an arms race. Not everyone immediately and profoundly grasped the 27th CPSU Congress propositions on changing the correlation between political and military measures in ensuring the country's security.

In restructuring their activity, the General Staff's Communists proceed from the premise that at its core is the development and practical realization of Soviet military doctrine and of its defensive thrust in a specific military policy, in the building of the Armed Forces, and in a defensive strategy and operational art. On this basis the General Staff directorates are preparing proposals for military-political and strategic measures and are taking part in formulating military aspects of the foreign policy initiatives of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact and in preparing and conducting talks on disarmament and security issues. They are organizing the implementation of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and preparing material relating to arms reductions.

This is complex and responsible work. Errors are impermissible in it. It requires painstaking assessment of many scenarios and forecasting of their possible consequences.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of the efforts that must be directed toward implementing the military-technical aspect of the defensive military doctrine. New approaches in assessing probable enemies and the possible nature of aggression in light of the existing correlation of forces can be perceived. Certain influential forces in the West now make a more realistic assessment of the situation and the possible consequences of the arms race. But equally influential forces are still gambling on a "position of strength" in relation to the Soviet Union. We saw this for ourselves, the speaker noted, during the Soviet military delegation's recent visit to the United States, where we were shown U.S. military might. This is also confirmed by the talks with U.S. Defense Secretary F. Carlucci on 1-4 August this year. What stems from this is the need for measures that will make it possible to obtain timely warning of actions presenting a danger to our state and its allies.

The question of the possible nature of a war fought to repel aggression must be thoroughly studied. A great deal has been done here. However, not all political and strategic problems have been analyzed profoundly enough, and on a number of points we are often in thrall to old ideas. The meeting stressed: Errors in assessing the likely nature of aggression are always dangerous. And when the strategy is defensive, they are fraught with grave consequences. This work must not be approached dogmatically; we must ensure that it is of a standard of quality making it possible to produce strategic forecasts with greater confidence.

We must continue work to improve military building in accordance with the principles of balance and defense sufficiency and in light of the activity of the United States and the NATO bloc. This is the main and most complex question in the practical implementation of military doctrine, as the meeting noted. There is some clarity on this issue in theory, but when it comes to practice many directorates are elaborating new decisions slowly and timidly.

The conference's demands that we gear ourselves chiefly to qualitative parameters with respect to equipment, personnel, military science, and the composition and structure of the Armed Forces in conducting military building confront the General Staff's Communists with the need to review many positions and to resolve many questions in a new way.

With regard to arms and equipment this means that the troops and fleets will probably receive less, but the combat effectiveness and quality must be higher, so that it is possible to resolve tasks with fewer combat resources, yet more effectively.

What is on the agenda is the continuation of work to impart a defensive orientation to the structure of the Armed Forces. This work is under way and its outlines have been defined. In continuing it, we must find new methods of maintaining combat potential at a proper level guaranteeing reliable security for the country under conditions of possible reductions of both nuclear and conventional arms.

A most important direction in improving combat readiness is the development of the control system. In general, a more resolute restructuring is needed here. It is necessary to more actively solve the problems of the survivability and automation of control and to improve the communications system.

New approaches are also being introduced in the operational training of the Armed Forces. But, unfortunately, this process is going slowly. In particular, the meeting noted that some exercises have revealed many shortcomings. Certain commanders and staffs have not fully grasped the demands of the defensive strategy and operational art.

The question of the work of the General Staff's Communists to lead combat training was particularly singled out. Pointed criticism was voiced here. The plans and timetables have contained many hours, but this quantity on paper has not been translated into quality. The USSR defense minister has issued instructions for a serious restructuring of combat training in the light of the demands of the new military doctrine. This restructuring has been partially begun during the summer period. It must be vigorously continued.

Much has also been done to narrow the gap between the structure of control organs and the changed nature of the tasks and to more precisely define the responsibility and duties of directorates, sectors, departments, and groups.

But the organizational structure of control per se is effective only when it is based on very competent cadres. There are still many problems here. Some Communists lack profound knowhow, initiative, and responsibility. The apparatus' activity to carry out monitoring functions needs to be restructured.

The meeting raised questions connected with implementing the party line of democratizing all aspects of our life. The General Staff is a creative organ. It elaborates decisions of state importance. The guarantee against errors lies in free, creative debates, arguments, and clashes of opinion. Only under such conditions is it possible to make full use of the existing creative potential of all personnel of this control organ. Therefore, the task of party organizations is to create such an atmosphere everywhere. Concern was expressed at the fact that certain officers still merely do what they are told, often fail to express their own viewpoint, and do not display the necessary independence. That is intolerable anywhere, but especially so in the General Staff.

When it comes to major issues of fundamental, long-term importance, democratic discussion of them with the participation of all the generals, admirals, and officers concerned must be ensured at the stage when the issues are being studied. A respectful attitude toward different positions and nontraditional proposals must be established. Such proposals often lead to an efficient solution of the problems that arise.

Democratism is needed in resolving cadre and social and consumer service questions, in ensuring social justice in the promotion of officers, in providing them with housing and leisure, and in creating a comradely atmosphere at work and approachability.

Party organizations must mount a more vigorous struggle against bureaucratism. It was noted that this work has begun with a very necessary but extremely simple step—reducing the size of the apparatus. But bureaucratism is rearing its head. It finds expression in poor-quality work, a formalistic approach toward resolving particular tasks, red tape, and disregard of requests and proposals received from the troops and the fleets. It also finds expression in a propensity for overcentralization and the generation of paperwork.

Glasnost must be developed in every possible way. The meeting noted that the hushing up of acute problems inside collectives and tight-lipped silence on issues that require comprehensive study and the comparison of opinions are impermissible.

This is especially important in military science. New questions of military theory and the building of the Armed Forces are sometimes elaborated without broad discussion.

The General Staff must do a great deal to ensure that service in the Armed Forces becomes a genuine schooling in internationalism. We must think out a system of additional measures that will make it possible to implement this demand of the party conference.

Many legislative and legal documents regulating armed forces life need to be updated. At present some of them are not in line with the changed situation.

All these tasks require a higher level of organizational and political work on the part of the General Staff leadership, its directorates, the Political Department, party committees and bureaus, and all party organizations. Criticism was voiced of many party committees and bureaus and of Secretaries A. Osetrov, K. Kuzminov, N. Zhilyuk, V. Kazakhov, V. Kharlamov, and V. Brodovoy and Political Department Chiefs V. Fedorov and A. Kocherov personally. Party organizations must study the situation more profoundly and more actively influence the state of affairs. Communists in leadership positions have a special responsibility for the course of restructuring. It is necessary to substantially renew ideological work and rid it of elements of dogmatism, empty rhetoric, and a divergence between word and deed.

The implementation of the decisions of the party conference and the CPSU Central Committee plenum is the concern, duty, and obligation of every Communist.

I. Larin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Administrative Organs Department, took part in the party aktiv meeting.

Shestopalov Discusses Military Construction

OW1408145588 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2130 GMT 13 Aug 88

[From the "I Serve the Soviet Union" program; address by Marshall Nikolay Fedorovich Shestopalov, USSR deputy minister of defense, on the occasion of Construction Workers Day; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The main achievement of military construction organizations in their work this year is not, I would be inclined to say, merely the successful completion of the government plan for the first half of the year, but the display of general enthusiasm among all participants in the construction process towards work under the new economic conditions. The results registered in the construction departments of the Moscow and Belorussian Military Districts, as well as in the organizations headed by comrades Mikhaylov, Chukanov, and Rumyantsev, which work under collective contract methods, bear witness to this. Here, a steady fulfillment of the planned targets is ensured, as well as growth in labor productivity and in the quality of construction. Also of considerable importance here is that additions to pay have been abolished. People have begun working more conscientiously and more professionally.

This is only the beginning. Presently, in our construction organizations and production enterprises, we are actively preparing for a changeover, on 1 November 1989, to complete financial autonomy and self-financing.

The situation is made more complex by the inadequate planned stability and the low qualifications of a significant number of military construction workers. Also, by the unavailability of material and technical resources, their shortage at construction sites, and, frankly, the weak and inadequate economic work in several of our organizations. All this needs to be corrected quickly.

We are pleased to see that many military construction organization collectives are truly concerned with the timely completion of living quarters and projects intended to meet cultural and social needs. This is in the spirit of the latest decisions of the party. Over the past 2 and ½ years military builders have completed a total of more than 7 million square meters of living space, hundreds of clubs, schools, kindergartens, shops, and medical facilities. Certainly, we cannot be content with the present pace of housing construction in view of the goal set by the 27th party congress to ensure, by the year 2,000, each family with a separate apartment or an individual house. Therefore, we are taking steps to increase the volume, and especially, increase the quality of living space. Also, we intend to satisfy, more completely, the needs for living quarters of families of servicemen. For this, for building living quarters, we seek additional funds.

The future of our plans, and of the socialist pledges that we have made, is decided directly at the building sites, in the workshops of production enterprises, at each workplace. It is precisely here that efforts of the leadership, engineers, and the party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations should be concentrated. Life demands that we be closer to the people. Unfortunately, we do not always have the ability to understand profoundly the spiritual life of the military construction workers, and to unite our multinational collectives.

In other words, there are many problems. We do have a specific action program based on directions worked out at the 19th all-union party conference and by the July 1988 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. The actual implementation of these directions represents a serious test for commanders and political workers, for every participant of the construction chain. Our duty is to be on top of the set tasks.

Drunkenness Mars Airborne Troops Jubilee

PM1108101188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Aug 88 Second Edition p 6

[Article signed "PRAVDA Military Department" under the rubric "We Serve the Soviet Union": "There Are Traditions and Traditions"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On 2 August, in Moscow and other cities, former airborne troops celebrated the "birthday" of the airborne troops. Meetings with front-veterans and internationalist soldiers, concerts, and exhibitions—it was all there.

Unfortunately, there were other things as well. Groups of drunken reservists carousing, behaving like hooligans, and insulting passersby. Some 3,000 former airborne troops gathered in the M. Gorkiy Central Park of Culture and Recreation, we were told by TASS correspondent V. Itkin, and many had come to the meeting from Moscow, Ryazan, Khmelnitskiy, Tyumen, and other oblasts. Unfortunately, the meeting was marred by orgies of drunkenness. They occurred also in other parts of the city.

There were breaches of public order in Moscow last year as well. This year they were repeated there and spread to other cities, Minsk, for example. The bad example was infectious.

In Komsomol committees—from rayon to central—and at the airborne troops political department these facts were given a principled assessment. Quite rightly, too. But last year's assessment of the 2 August events was equally principled.

Evidently it is not just a matter of condemning and fulminating against people on paper. It is necessary to work constantly with reservists. Not only with former airborne troops, of course. There were instances of public drunkenness, albeit on a smaller scale, on Navy Day and on Border Troops' Day. Can party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and leaders of enterprises, institutions, and educational establishments remain indifferent to the behavior of reservists in their collectives? The military commissariats and DOSAAF organizations cannot sit by and watch it happen either. Apart from anything else it must not be forgotten that no one has revoked the antialcohol legislation. There is no point trying to reason with drunks, even if they are wearing "blue berets." You simply have to exercise authority.

Of course, the vast majority of former airborne troops behaved exemplarily in public places on 2 August, as on any other day. They are not the ones we are reproaching, but those who have forgotten that if they are released into the reserves they must not put the honor and dignity of soldier and citizen aside. Under no circumstances!

Finally, perhaps it is worth considering instituting an Airborne Troops' Day? This would increase the personal responsibility and pride of those who are serving and those who have done their stint in the airborne forces....

Lizichev Addresses Rocket Forces Meeting

PM1108131788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 First Edition p 2

[Report by Colonel K. Maslov: "Deepen Restructuring"]

[Text] A recent training and method meeting of the chiefs of political bodies in the Strategic Rocket Forces discussed measures to further increase the responsibility of political bodies for improving the leadership of primary party organizations in light of the demands made by the 19th all-union party conference and the July (1988) CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

The meeting was addressed by Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Military Leaders Sign Officer's Obituary

PM1208134988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Second Edition p 6

[Obituary of G.V. Kozlov]

[Excerpts] Formation Commander Lieutenant General Gennadiy Vasilyevich Kozlov died suddenly on 3 August 1988 at the age of 51. He devoted all his adult life to selfless service to our motherland, the Soviet people, and the Communist Party, of which he had been a member since 1962. [passage omitted]

D.T. Yazov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, P.G. Lushev, A.D. Lizichev, Yu.P. Maksimov, D.S. Sukhorukov, V.S. Rodin, Yu.A. Yashin, S.G. Kochemasov, A.P. Volkov, G.N. Malinovskiy, A.A. Ryazhskikh, V.P. Shilovskiy, V.S. Nedelin, I.A. Averyanov, A.A. Vlasenko, and A.I. Orlov.